



People view the total solar eclipse in Svalbard, Norway Friday March 20, 2015. An eclipse darkened parts of Europe on Friday in a rare solar event that won't be repeated for more than a decade.

(AP Photo/Haakon Mosvold Larsen, NTB Scanpix)

Europeans Savor Glimpse of Total Solar Eclipse

M. BENEDYK
C. GASCHKA
Associated Press
LONGYEARBYEN, Norway
(AP) — Sky-gazers looked up in awe Friday as the moon blocked the sun in a total solar eclipse that momentarily darkened a slice of northern Europe.

The most spectacular viewing came on Norway's Svalbard islands near the North Pole, where a bright clear day and blindingly white snow highlighted the cosmic wonder that used to bring ancient civilizations to a trembling halt. Visitors to the Arctic islands

were treated to a full view of the sun's corona — a faint ring of rays surrounding the moon — that is only visible during a total eclipse. "All of the various things that you're supposed to see — the shadow bands, the corona, both diamond

rings, prominences — it had everything. It had absolutely everything," said Richard Patching, a 63-year-old visitor from Calgary in Canada. Elsewhere, the much-anticipated solar eclipse was a bit of a letdown. In the Faeroe Islands — the only

place besides Svalbard where the eclipse was total — a blanket of clouds meant thousands of visitors missed out on the event, apart from the eerie darkness from the moon's shadow.

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Europeans Savor Glimpse of Total Solar Eclipse



A giant circle is seen during the solar eclipse around the sun over Alexander Column at Dvortso-vaya (Palace) Square in St. Petersburg, Russia, Friday, March 20, 2015. An eclipse darkened parts of Europe on Friday in a rare solar event that won't be repeated for more than a decade.
(AP Photo/Dmitry Lovetsky)

Continued from front

"Well it was very close," said Fred Espenak, a retired NASA scientist visiting the island group in the North Atlantic. "If the eclipse had been 25 minutes later, it would have been fantastic. But the clouds ruined it for us. So I'm very disappointed."

Some 20,000 people had traveled to the Faeroe Islands and Svalbard to watch the eclipse.

A solar eclipse happens when the moon lines up between the sun and the Earth. This casts a lunar shadow on the Earth's surface and obscures the sun. During a partial eclipse, only part of the sun is blotted out.

"Some people were surprised to see how fast it became dark," said Sigrun Skalagard, who watched the event in the northern Faeroes.

She said birds went silent and dogs started howling during the total eclipse, which lasted for 2 minutes and 45 seconds.

Others said they didn't notice any odd behavior among wildlife.

In Britain, where the eclipse was only partial, some mocked the idea that birds would stop singing because of the eclipse.

"Someone really needs to have a word with the wildlife in Essex," said a Twitter user with the handle Mel Salisbury. "The birds are really not getting this 'falling silent' thing at all."

In Svalbard, midway between continental Norway and the North Pole, a few hundred people had gathered on a flat frozen valley overlooking the mountains. They shouted and whooped with delight as the moon's shadow crossed the surface of the sun, producing a dramatic interplay of light and dark over the snowy landscape. Some tourists toasted each other with Champagne, a tradition among eclipse chasers.

"It was just fabulous, just beautiful and at the same time a bit odd and it was

too short," said Mary Ran-nestad, 60, from Minnesota.

A partial solar eclipse could be seen across Europe and parts of Asia and Africa. Britain's Met Office said 95 percent of the sun was covered in the Hebrides, Orkneys and Shetland Islands, and one percent less further south in Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Cloudy weather put a lid across large parts of the continent, making it hard to see the eclipse.

However, a thin cloud cover allowed people in Stockholm to watch the eclipse without protective glasses, as the faint disk of the sun could be seen through the overcast sky.

Across Europe, people were warned against looking directly at the sun — but that wasn't the only hazard.

In Switzerland police said a 49-year-old man in the eastern town of Baar was taken to a hospital with a suspected broken leg after falling off a roughly 50-centimeter (20-inch) high ramp as he watched the eclipse. In Germany, a world leader in solar power, fears that the flood of sunshine after the eclipse would overload the system never materialized.

"We are very relieved," Dirk Biermann, head of 50Hertz, one of Germany's four transmission system operators for electricity, told the dpa news agency. "Everything worked out wonderfully."

The total solar eclipse coincided with the spring equinox, one of two occasions each year when the day is equal in length to the night.

The eclipse also occurred as the moon passed at its closest point to the Earth in its orbit, adding its gravitational pull on the ocean to create stronger tides.

The effect was most noticeable in the Bay of Fundy in eastern Canada — known for one of the highest tidal ranges in the world — and outside Saint Malo in northwestern France, said Michael Quaade, a Copenhagen University astronomer. □



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US opens criminal inquiry of resigning congressman Schock



In this February 2015 photo, Rep. Aaron Schock, R-Ill., speaks to reporters in Peoria Ill. According to a source, the Justice Department is investigating possible criminal violations by resigning Illinois congressman. (AP Photo/Seth Perlman)

JACK GILLUM
STEPHEN BRAUN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Justice Department is investigating the congressional expenses and business dealings of Rep. Aaron Schock, and FBI agents have begun issuing subpoenas to potential witnesses, a person familiar with the case told The Associated Press on Friday. Schock, 33, a media-savvy Republican, said earlier this week that he will resign at the end of the month. His sudden announcement followed a month-long cascade of revelations about his business deals and lavish spending on everything from overseas travel to office decor in the style of "Downton Abbey." Congressional ethics investigators had begun probing Schock's conduct in the days before his announcement, but that probe is now expected to halt because of federal involvement. Investigators are focusing on Schock's House office

expenses, expenditures by his re-election campaign and his personal investments aided by long-time political donors, the person said. The government is convening a federal grand jury in his home state of Illinois, according to the person, who was not authorized to publicly discuss the case. The person also said that FBI agents were visiting people close to the Republican congressman who were being compelled by subpoena to testify. A spokesman and lawyers for Schock did not respond to repeated phone calls and emails Friday from AP. The questions raised have included Associated Press investigations of Schock's real estate transactions, air travel and entertainment expenses—including some events that Schock documented in photographs on his Instagram account. On Monday, the AP confirmed that the Office of Congressional Ethics had reached out to Schock's associates as it apparently began an

investigation. The owner of an air charter service in the city of Peoria confirmed on Friday that he had been contacted by an ethics investigator interested in Schock's extensive flights on planes owned by campaign donors. Harrel

W. Timmons, owner of Jet Air Inc., said the investigators wanted to know about Schock's flights on a plane owned by D&B Air, another firm owned by a prominent Schock donor in Peoria. AP previously reported that Schock's use of the D&B

flights appeared to violate congressional rules in place at the time prohibiting the use of office accounts to pay for private flights. Schock had used office expenses to pay \$24,000 for eight flights in 2011 and 2012. □

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Boehner off to Israel; Netanyahu's ties to Obama hit new low

DEB RIECHMANN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The leader of the U.S. House of Representatives, Speaker John Boehner, is heading to Israel as already strained relations between the White House and newly re-elected Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hit a new low this week. On the surface, the Republican leader's announcement Friday that he'll visit Israel looks like a jab at the White House. But a congressional aide insisted that Boehner's trip — during the two-week congressional recess that begins March 30 — was planned before new rifts developed over Netanyahu's address to Congress and the prime minister's remarks this week about the peace process. The aide spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to publicly disclose details of the trip. President Barack



President Barack Obama and House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio depart Capitol Hill in Washington. Boehner is heading to Israel as already strained relations between the White House and newly re-elected Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hit a new low this week.

(AP Photo/Cliff Owen)

Obama bristled when Boehner invited Netanyahu to address U.S. lawmakers earlier this month about his fears that an emerging nuclear agreement would pave Iran's path to nuclear weapons.

Relations took another hit Monday when Netanyahu made hard-line statements against the establishment of a Palestinian state. Speaking on the eve of his re-election, Netanyahu said there could be no

Palestinian state while regional violence and chaos persist — conditions that could rule out progress on the issue for many years. That ruffled the Obama administration, which views a two-state solution as a top foreign policy priority and had dispatched Secretary of State John Kerry for months of shuttle diplomacy in an effort to reach an Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement that never materialized. On Thursday, Netanyahu seemed to backtrack, saying in a TV interview that he remains committed to Palestinian statehood — if conditions in the region improve. Netanyahu told MSNBC that he hadn't changed his policy and that he remained committed to the two-state vision he spelled out in a landmark 2009 speech. Obama called Netanyahu to congratulate him on his re-election, but also

told the Israeli leader that the U.S. is reassessing its approach to Israeli-Palestinian peace in light of his comments about a Palestinian state. A White House official said Obama also raised Netanyahu's critical comments about Israeli Arabs ahead of the election, which the White House has denounced as a "cynical" effort to mobilize voters. Asked whether Obama got a better understanding of Netanyahu's position on a Palestinian state after talking with him, White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Friday: "That was not the result of the call." Earnest said the administration has not decided what a reassessment in policy might mean. But he noted that in the past, the U.S. has regularly opposed U.N. resolutions to create a Palestinian state by arguing that such a two-state arrangement should be negotiated between the parties. □



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2 more US fraternities are latest accused of ugly behavior



A sign hangs at the entrance to the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity house on the North Carolina State University campus in Raleigh, N.C., on Friday, March 20, 2015. The frat has been suspended as authorities investigate the discovery of what appears to be a pledge book filled with racially and sexually explicit language. (AP Photo/Jonathan Drew)

JONATHAN DREW
Associated Press
RALEIGH, North Carolina

(AP) — Two fraternities at North Carolina State University have been suspended — one for what appeared to be an offensive book, the other for drug and sexual assault allegations — the latest chapters reprimanded in a wave of unseemly fraternity behavior around the U.S.

The national Pi Kappa Phi organization said Thursday it suspended its Raleigh chapter while it investigates derogatory comments attributed to members in a notebook found at a restaurant near campus. Separately, new details about a drug paraphernalia seizure surfaced in a search warrant in the investigation of sexual assault allegations at Alpha Tau Omega, which was suspended earlier this month.

Details about the North Carolina suspensions surfaced not long after shocking behavior at the University of Oklahoma and Penn State have put fraternities

in the spotlight.

At Oklahoma, Sigma Alpha Epsilon members were caught on video singing a racist song. At Penn State, police are investigating allegations members of Kappa Delta Rho used a private Facebook page to post photos of nude and partly nude women, some apparently asleep or passed out. More than 100 Penn State students and other supporters demonstrated against the fraternity Friday.

An estimated 372,000 fraternity members make up just a fraction of the 7.7 million male college students in the U.S. But the social organizations, along with sororities for women, have an outsized influence on life in many campuses, hosting parties and often doing charitable work.

In Raleigh, television station WRAL posted photos of a notebook attributed to Pi Kappa Phi brothers, including a list of members on the fraternity's website. The notebook included sexist and racially insensitive

comments.

One comment said: "If she's hot enough, she doesn't need a pulse." Another said: "Man, that tree is so perfect for lynching." In a news release, Pi Kappa Phi Chief Executive Officer Mark E. Timmes said the comments "are offensive and unacceptable."

In the Alpha Tau Omega investigation, campus police

Sgt. J.P. Dye wrote in a warrant obtained by multiple media outlets that officers seized drug paraphernalia and white powder during a search at the fraternity house.

A woman called police March 1 to say that she was sexually assaulted there. She also told officers that she had been offered drugs, including cocaine

and that she had seen drugs being sold.

A campus police spokesman didn't immediately return a message from The Associated Press.

Wynn Smiley, Alpha Tau Omega's national chief executive officer, said the fraternity kicked out a pledge who had white powder and other drug paraphernalia in his room. □



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FBI asks for patience in black man's hanging in Mississippi

JOHNNY CLARK
JEFF AMY
Associated Press

PORT GIBSON, Mississippi
(AP) — An FBI agent ap-
pealed for patience Fri-

day after a black man was
found hanging from
a tree in Mississippi, saying

30 federal, state and local
agents were working inten-
sively to determine wheth-
er he was killed or commit-
ted suicide.

The county coroner con-
firmed that the man found
hanging from a white sheet
Thursday was Otis Byrd, an
ex-convict reported miss-
ing by his family more than
two weeks ago. Byrd lived
just 200 yards from the spot
where his body was found,
in a wooded area off a dirt
road that ran behind his
house.

"Everybody wants answers
and wants them quickly.
We understand that," FBI
Special Agent Don Alway

told a crowd outside the
Claiborne County Court-
house. "We are going to
hold off on coming to any
conclusions until the facts
take us to a definitive an-
swer."

Alway said investigators are
interviewing Byrd's family
and friends and searching
his rental home and a stor-
age unit for clues, and will
not reveal any evidence
along the way.

Claiborne County Sheriff
Marvin Lucas Sr. told The
Associated Press earlier Fri-
day that Byrd did not ap-
pear to have stepped off
of anything in the area
where he was found hang-



Claiborne County officials leave a home in Port Gibson, Miss. An FBI agent appealed for patience Friday after a black man was found hanging from a tree in Mississippi, saying 30 federal, state and local agents were working intensively to determine whether he was killed or committed suicide.
(AP Photo/Josh Edwards)

Gruesome US case highlights fetal homicide laws

SADIE GURMAN
NICHOLAS RICCARDI
Associated Press

LONGMONT, Colorado (AP)

— The gruesome case of a woman accused of cutting open the belly of a pregnant woman and removing her unborn baby girl is reviving a highly-charged debate in the U.S. over when a fetus can legally be considered a human being.

The abortion debate has hung over the increasing number of states that have made the killing of a fetus a homicide. Those laws have been promoted by opponents of abortion rights and have been adopted by 38 of the 50 U.S. states and the federal government, to the consternation of many abortion-rights supporters. But Colorado, the state where the crime occurred, twice rejected efforts in the past two years to make the death of a fetus a homicide under state law.

That leaves the fate of Dynel Lane up in the air. Authorities say Lane lured a woman who was nearly

eight months pregnant to her home this week with an ad on Craigslist offering to sell baby clothes. Lane allegedly removed the fetus from the woman's body. Stan Garnett, the district attorney of liberal Boulder County, said during a news conference Thursday that Colorado law makes it challenging to file homicide charges. "Under Colorado law, essentially no murder charges can be brought if the child did not live outside of the mother," Garnett said.

The legal complexity seems unnecessary to some. "It's literally absurd," said Keith Mason, the president of Personhood USA, the anti-abortion rights group that spearheaded the push for Colorado's fetal homicide laws.

Douglas Johnson, legislative director of the National Right to Life Committee, said none of the laws can be used against a woman who decides to lawfully terminate her pregnancy. "Some of them have been in existence for 30 years,

and they haven't had any impact on legal abortions," he said.

After Democrats rejected a fetal-homicide bill in 2013, state Rep. Mike Foote authored a measure allowing extra felony charges to be filed against anyone who commits a crime that causes the death of a fetus. Because of the involvement of activists seeking "personhood" status for fetuses, Foote said that it's impossible for Colorado to implement a fetal homicide law without running the risk of lengthy legal fights over abortion. Foote, a Democrat who is also a prosecutor, and others said the key issues in the current case will be both whether the baby was alive outside the mother and whether the act that led to its death occurred outside her body. During a brief court hearing Thursday afternoon, Lane's defense attorney, Kathryn Herold, requested that a defense expert be present during the autopsy.

Dynel Lane's husband told investigators that when he

came home from work early to meet her for a pre-natal appointment, he found her covered in blood and a baby gasping for breath in a bathtub. Lane told her husband she had suffered a miscarriage, and he took her and the baby to a hospital, where she was later arrested on suspicion of attempted first-degree murder and other crimes. □

While drifting in and out of consciousness, the 26-year-old woman, who was nearly 8 months pregnant with a baby girl, told police she did not know Lane and only went to her house in response to the ad, an affidavit states.

The woman, Michelle Wilkins, later managed to call emergency dispatch, and police arrived to help her sometime after Lane and her husband left.

Wilkins' family said Friday that she is in critical but stable condition. Lane went to great lengths to show her family she was pregnant, sharing an ultrasound photo with her daughter, the affidavit says. □

ing from a tree limb about 12 feet (3.6 meters) high. His feet were dangling about two feet off the ground, and his hands were not bound, Lucas said.

"Life matters," Lucas told the crowd. "I commit to you, as the sheriff of Claiborne County, that I will not allow the shadows of the past to cast a shadow on the future."

The results of an autopsy by the Mississippi Crime Lab could take days, said Lucas.

Byrd worked on offshore oil rigs and enjoyed gambling in casinos in his off time after getting out of prison, where he served 26 years for fatally shooting a woman while robbing \$101 from her convenience store in 1980.

He wasn't the type to commit suicide, friends and family said.

"He tried to turn his life around. He was going to church every Sunday," said his stepsister, Tracy Wilson. "Anybody could have done this. I just don't see him doing it to himself."

Smith said she is planning to participate in a march Monday in Port Gibson to protest Byrd's death. □

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US Financial Front:

Managing student loan debt as an older adult

JOHN F. WASIK

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Continuing your education is a lofty pursuit, but it could become an albatross if you get too deep into student loan debt.

With the need to retool career skills or pursue new vocations, more Americans are taking on loans to finance education later in life - for new degrees, certificates or course work called continuing education units to improve knowledge in demanding professions. According to the Government Accountability Office, student debt held by those 65 and older has risen significantly in recent years, growing to about \$18.2 billion in 2013, from about \$2.8 billion in 2005. While it's not known how much of that is the result of college loans cosigned for children or grandchildren, a good portion is for continuing education. Before the last recession, the working-age population pursuing "re-entry" courses jumped 27 percent over a decade, according to the Education Department.

With all that borrowing by older people, some loan trouble probably can't be far behind. So how do you avoid it if you're a present or future retiree, since Social Security or wages could be garnished if you default? One answer is your employer might help pay for your education. Many employers will pick up some or all of the costs of a graduate degree.

If you're paying for all of your education, look at it as an investment, said Tom White, chief executive of iQuantifi, an online financial advice service. In addition to asking yourself the reason for going back to school, he said, "Do a cost-

benefit analysis. How will it maximize my earnings? Will I be able to service the debt?"

Andrew Weber, a certified credit counselor in Athens, Ohio, went back to college after obtaining a bachelor's degree. He advises those returning to school to carefully consider their financial situation and career before going into debt.

"Evaluate your postgraduate payment plan," Weber suggests. "What will your salary be after graduation? Will there be an immediate payoff in terms of a higher salary?"

For example, in some companies and professions - like teaching - getting a master's degree leads to a guaranteed pay raise. Will your employer reward you for a higher degree? If so, will your raise offset the cost of the degree and debt incurred? Weber says in a previous job he could have received an immediate \$2-to-\$3-an-hour salary raise after earning a graduate degree.

You can overpay for a degree or certificate that will yield little career advancement or salary increases. Weber warns against for-profit colleges that market aggressively and says their programs and graduation rates should be carefully vetted.

"For-profit institutions market heavily to an older demographic," Weber said. "They have sales agents and marketing budgets that are from one-quarter to one-fifth of their total budgets. The reason why that number stands out for the for-profit companies is because they spend so little of their budget on their actual classes, teachers and materials versus executive pay and advertising. Their



Debt held by those 65 and older has risen significantly in recent years, but the load may be eased with careful planning or government aid, or through an employer.

(Sebastien Thibault/The New York Times)

entire corporate structure is built to generate profit regardless of the outcome of the students that are enrolling."

In a prominent case, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau late last year sued Corinthian Colleges Inc., one of the larg-

est for-profit chains in North America, saying that it had "lured tens of thousands of students to take out private loans to cover expensive tuition costs by advertising bogus job prospects and career services."

But what happens after you're out of school with

continuing education debt if you can't increase your income or don't start earning money right away?

If you have federal loans, you can qualify for a break from payments until you can start paying them down. See the Education Department's federal student aid website to explore the options. Another option is income-based repayment, available only for federally guaranteed loans. Private loans are the least flexible in terms of repayment.

Karen McCarthy, senior policy analyst for the Washington-based National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, says a viable education financing strategy means thinking ahead. □

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American Living:

Accusations of Assaults Unnerve California High School

RICK ROJAS

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LOS ANGELES - Since the arrests of a dozen students here on suspicion of sex-related crimes, members of the Venice High School community have been do-

acts with two girls from the school described as in their midteens, beginning in December 2013, and continuing until as recently as this month. Twelve of the boys have been arrested - eight of them on campus during

attend. Zimmer said he was committed to finding some more substantive and longer term solutions, such as teaching students about having safe and healthy relationships. "This is something that can

communities need to address, too," said Neena Chaudhry, senior counsel for the National Women's Law Center. "Students need to know and feel safe about being able to report these things. Schools have

police, but when we believe teenage girls are being sexually assaulted on and off campus, we take immediate action," Smith said. "We feared there may be other female students that may fall victim to these young men if we did not act quickly."

Most of the boys have been released to their parents and removed from the school, the police said. Smith said certain boys involved had been "much more egregious in their assaults of these girls" than others, but declined to elaborate. None of the children's names have been released, because of their ages.

Prosecutors have 60 days from the date of citation to decide whether to pursue criminal charges, said Greg Risling, a spokesman for the Los Angeles County district attorney's office.

One case presented to prosecutors has already been declined, he said, but he declined to comment further.

Separately from the criminal proceedings, the Los Angeles Unified School District, the nation's second-largest public school system, has started the process "to determine whether or not a recommendation for expulsion will be sought," said Gayle Pollard-Terry, a district spokeswoman.

The authorities have shared limited details about the suspected crimes, but students interviewed outside the school said that in the halls and after class, classmates pass along rumors and photographs, including explicit images spread by Snapchat, a messaging service in which photos vanish in seconds.

"It's distracting people from most of our work," Mason Castro, 18, a senior, said after school this week, a skateboard in hand and a deep scrape across his forearm. "In some classes, everyone talks about that instead of doing what they would normally do." He added: "It's one more bit of gossip for everyone to choke down." □



Students at the end of the school day in front of Venice High School, in Los Angeles, March 16, 2015. In the wake of the arrests of a dozen students on suspicion of sex-related crimes, members of the Venice High School community are searching for what they could have done to prevent the assaults and what they can do to try to ensure that nothing similar happens again.

(Monica Almeida/The New York Times)

ing some soul-searching about what they could have done to prevent the assaults - some of which the police said took place on campus - and what they can do to try to ensure that nothing similar happens again.

"We're trying to determine how much of this, if any of this, could have been prevented with more security," said Steve Zimmer, the Los Angeles school board member whose district includes Venice High School. "That's really unclear right now."

According to the Los Angeles Police Department, 14 boys from Venice High School, ages 14 through 17, were involved in the sex

the school day last Friday. The police say they have been unable to find the other two.

Some of the sex acts were consensual and some were not, the police said, but consensual sex with a minor is also a crime in California, and the boys could be charged with various offenses. Investigators have uncovered enough physical evidence to be certain that "there was forced sexual activity against the will of the victims in this case," said Cmdr. Andrew Smith of the Los Angeles police. School officials have brought in crisis counselors and are evaluating security on the campus, which more than 2,000 students

change young lives forever," Zimmer said. "It's about the destruction of young lives."

While college campuses have been grappling with sexual assaults and how to handle them, this case is an example of the issue trickling down to the high school level, which people who work on women's rights issues say is an emerging problem. Some of those experts argue for more education, so that high school students know how to identify and respond to sexual assault - and also how to help prevent it.

The accusations at Venice High School highlight "a real problem that schools need to address and

to make that clear."

Bernadette Morales, whose son is a sophomore at the school, said the arrests had served as "a wake-up call." She said she was troubled by a school administration that might be allowing students too much freedom. "This is jaw-dropping," she said. "I don't know how this went on for so long without being noticed." School officials said they learned of the accusations from students on March 10, and went immediately to the police. Within days, police detectives had identified 14 boys, and the majority of the arrests were made last Friday during second period.

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Bombings in Yemeni mosques kill more than 130



Yemenis carry a body of a man killed in a bomb attack at a mosque in Sanaa, Yemen, Friday, March 20, 2015. Triple suicide bombers hit a pair of mosques crowded with worshippers in the Yemeni capital, Sanaa, on Friday, causing heavy casualties, according to witnesses. The attackers targeted mosques frequented by Shiite rebels, who have controlled the capital since September. (AP Photo/Hani Mohammed)

mosque bombings, citing instructions from the terror network's leader, Ayman al-Zawahri, not to strike mosques or markets. Friday's blasts left scenes of bloody devastation in the Badr and al-Hashoosh mosques, located across town from each other in Sanaa. Both mosques are controlled by the Shiite Houthis, but they are also frequented by Sunni worshippers. Images from the scene showed a number of children among the dead. In footage from the al-Hashoosh mosque, screaming volunteers were seen using bloodied blankets to carry away victims as a small child lay among the dead on the mosque floor.

"Blood was running like a river," said one survivor, Mohammed al-Ansi, who said he was thrown six feet by one of the blasts at the Hashoosh mosque, where the floor was strewn with body parts. The mosques were targeted by two suicide bombers each during mid-day prayers, when large crowds turn out to attend weekly sermons. The state news agency SABA put the toll at 137 dead and 357 wounded. Among the dead were 13 children, according to the Interior Ministry. A prominent Shiite cleric, al-Murtada al-Mansouri, and two senior Houthi leaders were also killed, the rebel-owned Al-Masirah TV channel said. □

AHMED AL-HAJ
Associated Press

ADEN, Yemen (AP) — Suicide bombers attacked a pair of mosques Friday in the Yemeni capital, unleashing monstrous blasts that ripped through worshippers and killed 137 people in the deadliest assault yet targeting Shiite rebels who have taken over large parts of the rapidly fragmenting nation. At least 13 children were among the dead. A purported affiliate of the Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the bombings, which also wounded 357 people — raising the alarming possibility the extremist group has expanded its presence to Yemen after already setting up a branch in Libya. Earlier this week, the group claimed responsibility for a bloody attack on Western tourists in Tunisia that authorities said was carried out by militants trained in Libya.

If the claim is true — and the U.S. expressed skepticism — Friday's attacks would be the first by the Islamic State group in Yemen, adding a frightening new layer to the country's turmoil. Shiite rebels known as Houthis have taken over the capital, Sanaa, and nine of the country's 21 provinces over the past six months, raising fears of a civil war tinged with sectarianism. The government of the internationally backed president, Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, has fled to the southern port city of Aden. Yemen is already home to the most powerful branch of the al-Qaida network, which has been battling the Houthis for months. On Friday, al-Qaida militants seized control of a southern provincial capital, al-Houta, in the group's most dramatic grab of territory in years. However, it denied carrying out the



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For Iraqis, years after US invasion seem like unending war

VIVIAN SALAMA

Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Alaa al-Qureishi's home is full of ghosts — the photos of dead relatives decorating the walls of every room.

In 2006, his mother and brother were killed when the house, in the Sadr City neighborhood of Baghdad, was randomly hit by a rocket. A year later, tragedy struck again when two more brothers and his brother-in-law were killed in sectarian violence at the height of the country's civil war.

Today, many of his fellow Shiites are on the front lines battling the extremists of the Islamic State group in what many see as an existential threat to Iraq. But the 37-year-old al-Qureishi is sitting this one out.

"Our situation keeps going from bad to worse," he said, his eyes filled with tears, the pain of his loss still fresh.

"My family doesn't need any more martyrs."

Twelve years after the U.S. invaded Iraq to topple Saddam Hussein and eliminate weapons of mass de-

struction that were never found, the country is still mired in war.

The Islamic State group, also known as ISIS or ISIL, rules more than a third of Iraq. Powerful, often violent, Shiite militias — armed and advised by Iran — are leading the fight against the extremists, propping up Iraq's humiliated military, which crumbled in the face of the militant threat last year.

U.S. forces are back, albeit in a non-combat role, thrusting open a door that many had sought to close for good when American troops withdrew in late 2011.

For Iraqis, the various conflicts feel like one long war, which many blame on the United States. A common view is that overthrowing Saddam spurred the explosion of sectarianism that followed when the long-oppressed Shiite majority rose to power.

A country beleaguered by foreign invasion and civil war became vulnerable to extremism. Fueled by another civil war in neighboring Syria, that extremism



Members of an Iraqi Shiite militant group called Soldiers of Imam Ali Brigades launch rockets against Islamic State extremists positions in Tikrit, 80 miles north of Baghdad, Iraq, Friday, March 13, 2015. Twelve years after the U.S. invaded Iraq to topple Saddam Hussein, the country is still mired in war. The latest phase: An existential battle against Islamic State group militants. For Iraqis, it feels like one long war, one that many blame on the United States.

(AP Photo/Khalid Mohammed)

grew into al-Qaida in Iraq and later, morphed into the Islamic State group that is now spreading havoc in several countries across the Arab world.

"Obviously, there is a threat that you can trace that shows Daesh emerged because of the invasion," said Sajad Jiyad of the Iraqi Institute for Economic Reform, using another acronym for the Islamic State group.

"It's the lack of rule of law, randomness of the violence and brutality that we see on a daily basis today that shocks people."

The U.S.-led invasion that

began in March 2003 was initially touted as the dawn of a new, democratic era for Iraq.

There was the "shock-and-awe" campaign; a dictator found hiding in a spider hole; national unity governments; insurgents, militias and retribution; and sectarianism and civil war.

More than 500,000 Iraqis were reportedly killed in the eight-year war, while more than 3,500 U.S. soldiers died in combat.

Hundreds of thousands of Iraqis fled the country during that war. Today, more than 2 million are displaced

from the violence set off by the campaign by the Sunni militants of the Islamic State group to establish a self-declared caliphate.

Iraq has staggered economically, despite its oil wealth. The International Monetary Fund forecasts that the economy shrank by 2.75 percent in 2014 — its first contraction since 2003.

Na'ma Ali Saleh, a 52-year-old resident of Sadr City, has struggled to keep a steady job since the invasion and believes the country's current crisis makes finding work impossible. □

EU rules out sending troops to Libya

LORNE COOK

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — European Union leaders, concerned about migrants using Libya as a jumping-off point to reach the continent, pledged Friday to help the conflict-torn country regain stability but ruled out deploying any security operation. The leaders backed the U.N.-brokered peace process that is trying to bring Libya's opposing factions together in a new government and called for the warring militias to lay down their arms.

"There must be an

immediate and unconditional cease-fire, and rapid agreement on a government of national unity," European Council President Donald Tusk said after hosting an EU summit in Brussels. The EU's top diplomat, Federica Mogherini, said Europe is "planning all possible ways of supporting, even on the plan of security, a future national unity government." She has said Europe could mount a military and border operation, and help build Libya's police and justice systems. But many of the

EU's 28 member countries are reluctant to send troops or resources while Libya remains unsettled, with rival governments in place.

"There is no question of a military intervention," French President Francois Hollande told reporters. "Politics must play its role, that's what been missing in recent years."

Libya is the main departure point from Africa for migrants fleeing poverty and war in search of better lives in Europe, and officials now fear that extremists could also make the crossing. □



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Far-right party fighting for lead in France's weekend vote



French far-right Front National leader Marine Le Pen, center, gestures as she arrives for an electoral visit at a market in Avignon, southern France. French voters are choosing local officials in elections to be held on March 22 and March 29 that are expected to bring even more power to the increasingly popular far right National Front party, amid concerns about immigration and security and disillusionment with traditional parties.

(AP Photo/Claude Paris)

ELAINE GANLEY
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Discontented Socialists, frustrated conservatives and an eclectic array of others — from gays to political renegades — could be among those casting ballots for France's far-right National Front in local voting this weekend, elections that promise to solidify leader Marine Le Pen's position as one of the country's leading political figures.

Le Pen has been the single most visible presence in weeks of campaigning on city streets and in rural villages with a relentless message to voters fed up with traditional parties: We care about you, they don't. For Le Pen, Sunday's election for more than 2,000 local councils is an important step in building a grassroots base critical to her ultimate goal: the 2017 presidency. "This is the big straight line to 2017," she said in a speech early this month in Paris. "There is no minor

election, no minor vote." The National Front decries immigration, fears Islam is uprooting traditional France and wants to withdraw from the European Union and euro currency. It's a hardcore line that Le Pen has successfully turned into a charm offensive for the disgruntled.

A poll published days ahead of Sunday's first-round balloting gives the National Front a leading 30 percent of the vote. That is just ahead of the conservatives and their allies, who measured 29 percent. It is leagues ahead of the 19 percent of President Francois Hollande's Socialist

Party. The second round is scheduled for March 29.

The governing left, unable to revive stagnant growth or lower the 10 percent unemployment rate, did not need a poll to know where it stands. Divided within and out of favor with the party faithful, the Socialists are expecting a drubbing — the only question seems to be how bad it will be.

The spotlight beamed still more brightly on Le Pen this month when Prime Minister Manuel Valls voiced the unspoken fears of the mainstream political class, saying Le Pen could, indeed, win the presidency. "I fear for my country," Valls said. "I fear it will get smashed against the National Front."

The prime minister's bold declaration was a clear bid to lure voters, and give pause to those tempted to turn their backs on mainstream parties. Divisions within the left and the right could send voters to the proudly anti-establishment National Front, a scenario aggravated by a predicted high abstention rate — which favors upstart parties

whose supporters are more fired up than the mainstream ones.

The National Front comes off a string of electoral success last year. It won control of 11 towns, took three seats in the French parliament and increased its seats in the European Parliament from three to 24 — more gains than any other French party.

Pollsters have predicted the National Front could even benefit from votes from disgruntled Socialists — the traditional arch-enemies of the far-right.

Le Pen has moderated her message since taking over leadership of the party in 2011 from her firebrand father Jean-Marie Le Pen, to make it an attractive alternative to what she disdainfully refers to as "UMPS" — an amalgam of the conservative UMP party and the Socialist PS. She has worked to scrub away the anti-Semitic stigma of the National Front — while relentlessly attacking immigration and Muslims who cling to their traditions, from eating halal meat to wearing the Islamic veil. □

NATO, Russian officials clash over situation in Europe

JOHN DAHLBURG
Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Top officials from NATO and Russia clashed sharply in public Friday over who is to blame for the dramatically worsened state of East-West relations.

"The big difference is that we are a defensive alliance," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg told a member of Russia's parliament. "You send troops into other countries." The Russian, Konstantin Kosachev, flatly denied Russia is using its regular troops in

Ukraine. He said the U.S.-led alliance talks a lot these days about the need to respect international law and a country's borders and sovereignty, but that it had bombed a sovereign nation, the former Yugoslavia, in 1999. Stoltenberg and Kosachev, who is the chairman of the international affairs committee of Russia's Federation Council, spoke at a panel discussion organized by the Brussels Forum, an annual event sponsored by the German Marshall Fund think tank. The discussion, in which U.S. Assistant

Secretary of State Victoria Nuland and the European Union's foreign affairs chief, Federica Mogherini, also took part, provided repeated and stark evidence of how deep the divide between Russia and the West has become.

At one point, Mogherini said the exchanges seemed to her to come from another century. When the discussion turned to the growing threat of cyber-attacks being used to undermine a country's economy or security, a tactic of hybrid warfare that many Western

sources suspect the Russians of engaging in, Kosachev asked Stoltenberg point-blank if NATO would bomb a country it held responsible for such an assault. Nuland jumped in, asking the Russian lawmaker if he was posing a "planning question."

Stoltenberg gave a deliberately murky answer.

"We will do what's necessary to do to protect all allies," he said. "But I'm not going to tell you exactly how I'm going to do that...that's the main message." □

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Puerto Rico seeks to recognize, allow gay marriages

DANICA COTO
Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— Puerto Rico's Justice Department announced Friday that it will not defend the U.S. territory's laws banning gay marriage in a major turnaround for the socially conservative island that surprised many.

Justice Secretary Cesar Miranda said that the government can no longer continue to discriminate against the gay community.

"It's neither fair nor correct to defend the constitutionality of that law," he said. "Same-sex couples cannot get married and therefore do not have access to those rights. They should be available to all those who love each other, who take care of each other, who work and contribute to this society like everyone else." The announcement comes a year after several gay couples in Puerto Rico filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of Puerto Rican laws that define marriage as between a man and a woman, as well as those that prohibit same-sex marriage and the recognition of such marriages. The territory's Justice Department had defended the laws before a federal judge who upheld them, but the case has been appealed to the 1st U.S. Cir-

cuit Court of Appeals in Boston, and Miranda said the department will no longer intervene.

Hundreds celebrated the news in Puerto Rico, includ-

Padilla's party said they supported gay marriage, including Senate President Eduardo Bhatia. While the governor has repeatedly stated that he is not in favor

apply to Puerto Rico and four other U.S. territories.

Opposition lawmakers and religious leaders criticized Friday's announcement and accused Garcia of imposing changes instead of consulting with the public and holding a referendum. "This is a slap in the face to Puerto Rican society," said legislator Maria Milagros Charbonier. "The government should not be playing around with issues as delicate as that of family, which is the cornerstone of our island."

Amarilis Pagan, spokeswoman for a local equal rights committee, said in a phone interview that advocates will now push Puerto Rico's government to reverse a law that bans adoptions by same-sex parents. The island's Supreme Court upheld the law in a 2013 ruling following an appeal by a Puerto Rican woman who sought to adopt a teenage girl that her partner of more than 20 years had given birth to through in vitro fertilization. Puerto Rico's legislature has approved several measures in recent years in favor of the gay community, including one that prohibits employment discrimination based on gender or sexual orientation, and another that extends a domestic violence law to gay couples. □



This photo shows Faviola Melendez Rodríguez, left, and Johanne Velez Garcia of Puerto Rico. The couple, who have been together for six years and were married in New York in 2012, are among the plaintiffs in an appeal of an October 2014 U.S. district court decision to uphold Puerto Rico's ban on same-sex marriage. (AP Photo/Lambda Legal)

ing Johanne Velez, an attorney and consultant who married her partner in New York in 2012 and is one of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit. "It is a historic day, and we are ecstatic," she said in a phone interview. "When we say it is historic, we are changing the lives of people not just for us, but around us. We hope that it will make society a better place for future generations."

Miranda made the announcement a week after a group of legislators from Gov. Alejandro Garcia

of gay marriage, he said he supports the change. "Everyone knows my religious beliefs, but it's not up to political leaders to impose our creeds," he said. "We have to push for the progress of civil and human rights under equal conditions for everyone." Thirty-seven U.S. states allow same-sex marriages, a number that has quadrupled in the last two years. The U.S. Supreme Court is expected to issue a ruling by the end of June regarding several same-sex marriage cases that would also

Cuba dissident's daughter breaks with group head

A. RODRIGUEZ
Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — The daughter of a founding member of Cuba's Ladies in White publicly split with their current leader this week in the latest sign of division within the dissident group, which a decade ago was awarded the European Union's top human rights prize.

Laura Maria Labrada, whose mother, Laura Pollan, was the Ladies' leader and public face before her death in 2011, criticized Berta Soler's management and the expulsion of group members.

"I have decided going forward to withdraw authorization for Berta Soler to use my mother's name or associate it with behavior that goes against the principles she always defended," Labrada said at a news conference in her mother and stepfather's home.

She added that Soler is no longer welcome at the house, which traditionally has been the Ladies' meeting place and headquarters.

Calls to Soler's cellphone rang unanswered Thursday. Her husband and fellow dissident, Angel Moya, said she was in Miami.

The split came weeks after video surfaced online showing group members allied to Soler shouting down another longtime member, Alejandrina Garcia, during a December gathering at the home. "Down with traitors!" "She should leave!" and "We don't want to hear her!" they yelled at Garcia, who had also disagreed with Soler's leadership. The scene resembled the "acts of repudiation" in which pro-government counter-protesters sometimes accost Cuba's dissidents, yelling revolutionary slogans and personal epithets. □

Prison sentences for egg theft scheme in Cuba

HAVANA (AP) — More than a dozen people were sentenced to between five and 15 years in prison for conspiring to divert millions of eggs to the black market, Cuban official media reported Friday.

Eighteen suspects were convicted and one was acquitted, Communist Party newspaper Granma

said, in a case where prosecutors had sought terms of up to 20 years.

Granma reported last week that the suspects included executives of the state-run egg distribution company in Havana as well as accountants, drivers and other workers.

They were accused of misappropriating more than 8

million eggs from January to October 2012, causing an estimated \$356,000 in losses to the company.

The charges included food theft, generating fraudulent receipts and others. The government has tried to crack down on corruption in recent years, sentencing dozens of officials, workers and foreign

businesspeople to lengthy terms. Employees at state-run businesses often pilfer goods from their workplaces to sell on the black market as a way of supplementing government salaries averaging around \$20 a month. Islanders also receive a monthly ration book that provides for part of their food. □



Celebrating Aruba's Anthem and Flag Day: Camacuri Harley Davidson Club Hosts Annual Motorcycle Event



ORANJESTAD - In relation to the celebration of The Anthem and Flag Day the Camacuri Harley Davidson Club hosted their annual motorcycle event that started on the 13th of March and lasted a week, with a registration night at Garage Cordia with a live band called Perfect

Sound. Over the weekend, there were motorcycle rides at night with different stops to stretch the legs a bit. On Monday night the "Show me your bike-car show" took place on the parking lot of Do It Center, located in Shaba, with a large crowd who assisted to admire the

beautiful cars and cool bikes that were present. Many pictures were taken at this fundraising event. Another Motorcycle club called Cascabel Aruba M.C. was invited to host the Tuesday night ride which started at The Ranch bar and made a stop at the Carnival Village in San Nicolas with some activities before heading out again. And lastly on our national day, for the main event that took place, starting with a breakfast followed with the motorcycle ride all over our island, with the presence of riders from Curacao, Bonaire and Surinam, and our own Aruban riders. Covering the entire island this "parade of bikes" grabbed a lot of attention from both the local community and our island visitors as well. The day ended with the usual of handing out the awards to participating clubs at Trappers Club.

The bikes that were brought in from the other countries will be shipped home, but for sure they will be back next year to celebrate Aruba's Anthem and Flag Day "a' la Grande". □





Hard Rock Café Aruba Serves Up Great Food & Ambiance!

PALM BEACH - A unique dining experience awaits you at Hard Rock Café where the breeze is warm and the ambiance is alive with the perfect balance of live music to set the scene for every emotion. Although known for our legendary burgers, the Hard Rock Café dining experience stretches way beyond burgers, pulled pork and pulled chicken sandwiches, and salads. Aruban foodies are frequenting Hard Rock Café more and more to delight in a culinary adventure that combines robust smoky flavors and excellent quality steaks, chicken, pork, and fish. Sizzle up your night with Famous Fajitas in either variety of chicken, beef, or shrimp accompanied by an array of toppings and hot flour tortillas. When you just can't decide which



one your mouth is watering for make a duo or a trio combo of this not-so-typical dish. You may enjoy a tender USDA 8oz Grilled Steak or a 12oz New York Strip Steak grilled to perfection with a merlot butter, veggies, and garlic herb smashed potatoes. Pasta pleasers like Blackened

Chicken Pasta accompanied by its variety of toppings, and Twisted Mac, Chicken and Cheese brings about a spicy surprise in its 3-cheese sauce. Each pasta sensation is tastily seasoned and served with garlic toast. Grilled Norwegian Salmon makes its way south to you



wrapped in cedar paper and served with confetti rice. The sweet-yet-spicy barbecue sauce lends an all new fascination to a popular healthy meal choice. Grilled Mahi Mahi is always a favorite at Hard Rock Café as well. Comfy and cozy and oh-so scrumptious smoke house delights are our specialty and our chef never misses. Either alone or in a combo platter, our incredible Half Chicken or West Tennessee-style ribs are rubbed with just the right balance of spices and hickory bar-

beque sauce to make your taste buds dance. Kids love music and we love kids so the little ones have their own special menu. We look forward to you spending a whole evening with us at Hard Rock Café either comfortably seated indoors or delightfully seated outside under our canopy. We create our own special ambiance every night with Aruba's best live bands playing just the right tunes at just the right volume to really relax and enjoy. Please have your concierge make reservations at 586-9966. □

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Loyal Visitors Honored At The Marriott Surf Club



PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a group of loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba at the Marriott Surf Club as Distinguished Visitors and Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary titles are presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19

and 20-to-34 consecutive years. The honorees were Mr. Dave and Mrs. Sue Ronan and their daughter Ms. Cheri Ronan from Oakland, Maine, and Mr. George and Mrs. Josephine Sanfratello from Niles, Illinois. The honorees are loyal members of the Marriott Surf Club and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the

weather, beaches, restaurants, relaxation and being on Aruba and staying at the Surf Club is like being home for them. The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with the Marriott Surf Club associates Mr. Mario v/d Werf, Mrs. Norela Guzman, Mrs. Josephine Magalona and Ms. Jenny Boekhoudt. □

Team Aruba Feels Right at Home with IHRA

ORANJESTAD/PORT ALLEN, La - After a long off season, Team Aruba was anxious to get back on the track and tackle the 1320 feet of an IHRA Nitro Jam racing surface. State Capitol Raceway in Port Allen, La. played host to the IHRA Mardi Gras Nationals this weekend and was the stage for Team Aruba's return to the restructured and renewed racing organization. "It was great to personally meet all the new members of the IHRA ownership and staff," told Trevor Eman, pilot of the Aruba.com Mustang. "We could not feel more welcome in a racing sanctioning body than we did from them. The race was really fantastic all around. It was great to be back with the IHRA." Despite Mother Nature cancelling Friday's test session, Team Aruba qualified for the elite eight car field with a 6.39 elapsed time at 222 MPH. Eman and team were then set to take on number one qualifier and former World Champion, John Montecalvo, in round



one. Although Montecalvo was a very formidable opponent, the Aruba.com Mustang made easy work of Montecalvo's bowtie entry, when Montecalvo was forced to abort the run. Eman posted his best elapsed time of the weekend, a 6.326. Rainy weather on Friday made for tricky track conditions on race day and in round two, this would prove to be Team Aruba's nemesis. Eman encountered tire shake that forced him to let off the throttle, giving opponent J.R. Carr the semi

final victory. "Rain took its toll on the racetrack and affected the schedule in such a way that we could not test nor qualify on Friday," Eman explained. "However, the IHRA staff did a phenomenal job on the racetrack getting it ready for Saturday. We were certainly impressed in their accomplishment of getting not only the track ready for racing, but certainly even the entire event in the books with all the added difficulties they faced. It has been several years since we have

raced quarter mile so pre race testing and additional qualifying runs would have been helpful, but we were able to get the Aruba.com Mustang qualified and past round one, which was a great accomplishment for our first race back on the quarter-mile.

"Regardless of the rainy weather conditions that hindered our testing and qualifying, this was truly a great event," Eman added. "Besides being able to race quarter mile again, the greatest aspect of the entire weekend was the treatment we received by the people. The people from State Capitol Raceway and all of the New Orleans area fans treated us especially well.

"I think you can comfortably say that New Orleans has somewhat of a different culture compared to the rest of the entire United States. And in our case, as we are from a different country and thus also differently cultured, we automatically create a connection with people that have

different customs and traditions. We immediately felt connected to the people of New Orleans and appreciated their unique flavors, sights and sounds."

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"We can't wait to get to Bradenton to continue our effort in accumulating points," Eman said, speaking of the next IHRA Nitro Jam to be held April 17-19 at Bradenton Motorsports Park. "We have a very good working race car, an engine producing a tremendous amount of power and above all, a very good team in place who all work together very well. This combination, together with a great group of people in the IHRA will make for great racing this season." □

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GAME FACE



Hoffmann leads by three, McIlroy lurking

Rory McIlroy, of Northern Ireland, hits out of a bunker onto the 17th green during the second round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament in Orlando, Fla., Friday, March 20, 2015.
Associated Press
Page 19



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NHL Capsules

Sens beat Bruins, 2-points back for 8th

OTTAWA, Ontario (AP) — Bobby Ryan's third-period goal snapped a tie and lifted the Ottawa Senators to a 6-4 victory over the Boston Bruins in a back-and-forth game on Thursday night.

The surging Senators moved within two points of the Bruins in the race for the second wild-card spot in the Eastern Conference. Ottawa has a game in hand.

Kyle Turris netted two goals, and Milan Michalek, David Legwand and Jean-Gabriel Pageau also scored for the Senators. Andrew Hammond, making his fifth straight start, faced 35 shots and improved to 12-0-1 in his first 13 NHL starts.

Ottawa native Ryan Spooner had two goals as Boston dropped its third straight.

CANADIENS 4, HURRICANES 0

MONTREAL (AP) — Carey Price made 31 saves for his league-leading and career-best 39th win of the season, lifting Montreal past Carolina.

Price also earned his eighth shutout for the Canadiens, who got goals from Dale Weise, Brendan Gallagher, David Desharnais and Max Pacioretty.

Anton Khudobin stopped 18 of 22 shots for Carolina, which has lost five of its last six.

Montreal has won five straight against the Hurricanes.

PANTHERS 3, RED WINGS 1

SUNRISE, Fla. (AP) — Jaromir Jagr scored his 718th NHL goal, moving into fifth place on the career list, and added an assist in Florida's win over Detroit.

Jagr, who gave the Panthers a 1-0 lead, passed Phil Esposito for sole possession



Winnipeg Jets' Drew Stafford, center, Blake Wheeler, right, and Mark Scheifele (55) celebrate Stafford's game-tying goal against the St. Louis Blues in an NHL hockey game Thursday, March 19, 2015, in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Winnipeg won 2-1 in a shootout.

Associated Press

of fifth place with his first goal since March 1. Scottie Upshall and Brandon Pirri also scored, and Roberto Luongo made 25 saves in his return after missing six games due to an upper-body injury. It was Florida's first win in three games.

Erik Cole had the lone goal for Detroit, and Petr Mrazek stopped 29 shots, but the Red Wings lost for the fifth time in seven games.

SHARKS 4, MAPLE LEAFS 1

TORONTO (AP) — Logan Couture had a goal and an assist, helping San Jose defeat Toronto.

Couture's goal early in the second period was the eventual winner for San Jose (35-28-8), which ended a two-game skid. Tomas Hertl, Melker Karlsson and Tommy Wingels also scored for the Sharks, and Antti Niemi made 27 saves for the win.

Jake Gardiner was the lone scorer for Toronto, which

has dropped four straight.

CAPITALS 3, WILD 2

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Alex Ovechkin scored two goals, helping lift the Washington Capitals past the Minnesota Wild.

Evgeny Kuznetsov also had a goal, and Braden Holtby stopped 28 of 30 shots as the Capitals won their third straight. Ovechkin's 13th multigoal game this season improved his NHL-leading goal total to 47.

Minnesota got goals from Christian Folin and Jared Spurgeon.

JETS 2, BLUES 1, SO

WINNIPEG, Manitoba (AP) — Andrew Ladd scored the decisive shootout goal to give the Winnipeg Jets a victory over the St. Louis Blues.

Drew Stafford netted the only goal in regulation for the Jets. David Backes scored the lone goal for the Blues.

Ondrej Pavelec made 32

saves for his 16th win of the season. Brian Elliott stopped 33 shots in the loss.

STARS 2, PENGUINS 1

DALLAS (AP) — Brett Ritchie and Jamie Benn scored 1:23 apart in the second period, and the Dallas Stars held on to beat the Pittsburgh Penguins.

Benn set up Ritchie's deflection goal at 2:15 of the second, and put his own rebound past Marc-Andre Fleury at 3:37 for a 2-0 lead. Dallas' Kari Lehtonen made 15 of his 31 saves in the third period to preserve his 30th win of the season.

Kris Letang scored the Penguins' second power-play goal in nine games at 13:26 of the second.

FLAMES 4, FLYERS 1

CALGARY, Alberta (AP) — Johnny Gaudreau scored his 20th goal and added two assists to lead Calgary over Philadelphia.

Gaudreau's fourth three-point game of the sea-

son — against the team he grew up cheering for — moved the 5-foot-9 forward into the NHL rookie scoring lead with 56 points, one more than Nashville's Filip Forsberg.

Jiri Hudler, Dennis Wideman and T.J. Brodie also scored for Calgary.

Claude Giroux scored the lone goal for Philadelphia.

BLUE JACKETS 6, CANUCKS 2

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Rookie Marko Dano recorded his first two-goal game in the NHL and Sergei Bobrovsky made 38 saves as Columbus routed Vancouver.

Rene Bourque, Cam Atkinson, Scott Hartnell and Alexander Wennberg — an empty-netter — also scored for Columbus, which has won five of its last six.

Bo Horvat and Daniel Sedin had goals for Vancouver. Eddie Lack allowed five goals on 30 shots before being pulled in favor of Jakob Markstrom midway through the third period.

AVALANCHE 5, COYOTES 2

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Ryan O'Reilly and Jarome Iginla scored 29 seconds apart in the first period, Semyon Varlamov made 27 saves, and Colorado beat Arizona for its third straight win.

Freddie Hamilton added his first NHL goal, and Matt Duchene and Gabriel Landeskog also scored for the Avalanche, who won for the 11th time in 15 games to remain seven points behind Calgary for the final Western Conference playoff spot. Oliver Ekman-Larsson scored twice for the Coyotes, who have dropped four straight and 16 of 17.

In other NHL games it was



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Hoffmann takes 3-shot lead with 9 birdies at Bay Hill

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Equipped with his first PGA Tour lead in 67 starts, Morgan Hoffmann played Friday like he wanted to keep it in the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

Hoffmann made birdies on half of his holes for a 7-under 65, giving him a three-shot lead over Henrik Stenson, Harris English and defending champion Matt Every going into the weekend on soft and defenseless Bay Hill.

Stenson, English and Every each had a 66.

Rory McIlroy also got into the mix — finally — by making five straight birdies on his back nine for a 66, his first sub-70 score in three PGA Tour events this year. He was five shots behind and headed in the right direction in his final start before the Masters.

Bay Hill has greens that are so stressed that they will be replaced this summer. They are slow and receptive, a recipe for low scoring, and it shows.

Hoffmann was at 13-under 131, one short of the 36-hole record at Bay Hill. The cut was at 142, matching the lowest score to make the cut in 27 years at Bay Hill. It was the first time the cut was under par, but only because the tournament changed par to 70 (instead of 72) in 2008.

"I'm trying to birdie every hole out there, so it was good," Hoffmann said. "Just hitting great putts and good shots into the greens really helps. It's nice to hit some greens for a change. This year hasn't been that great, and it's a good change."

The 25-year-old from Oklahoma State made six birdies on the front nine, including four in a row, and he finished with a 6-iron out of the rough and over the water — the ball landed just four paces onto the green — for a par that kept him in control.

Hoffmann came into the week at No. 158 in the "strokes gained" statistic from tee-to-green. He leads the field at Bay Hill.

Next up is how well he holds up on the weekend.

Stenson, who has finished fourth



Morgan Hoffmann acknowledges the gallery after putting on the 18th green during the second round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament in Orlando, Fla., Friday, March 20, 2015.

in his two Florida events already, birdied his last four holes for a 30 on the back nine. He will be playing in the penultimate group with English, who is No. 52 in the world just outside qualifying for the Masters.

"Got to keep the pedal down and keep aggressive," English said.

He is coming off a top 10 at Innisbrook in which he closed with a 65, which moved him up eight

spots in the ranking.

McIlroy had dinner with Palmer on Thursday night and was treading water Friday morning until an 18-foot birdie putt on the par-3 second hole got him going. He birdied the next four holes, though he lost some momentum at the end with a bogey on No. 8 and a scrambling par on his final hole. "It would be nice to finish the round off a little better, but still a

good score and sets me up well for the weekend," McIlroy said.

"I think each and every day I'm feeling a little more comfortable, especially on the greens. Obviously, we played in the morning so we got the best of the greens, and it's easier to trust the lines you pick for yourself. But happy with how I putted today, and putt like that over the weekend, I'll have a chance."

A lot of that depends on Hoffmann, who is coming off a pair of 12-hour range sessions this weekend to try to rely on a slight fade. Every has only one top 10 since he won at Bay Hill a year ago, and he has not finished in the top 25 in his last 17 tournaments. But he is confident he is headed in the right direction with his swing, and it showed for two days. He ran off four straight birdies at the end of his round for a 66 and was at 134. "I'm really excited to play golf because I know I have good stuff coming really, really soon," Every said. "And I said before, you can lie to yourself. I've done it before all the time where I think I can win at the start of weeks. It's like probably how Rory feels every week." McIlroy, playing in Palmer's tournament for the first time, had dinner with the King on Thursday night after his opening round (and a drug test). They chatted more about commercial possibilities and old-time golf stories than McIlroy's bid to win the Masters and complete the career Grand Slam.

Palmer also insisted the 25-year-old McIlroy have a banana split.

"I'll be going to the gym this afternoon," McIlroy said. "It was fantastic, it really was. He's telling stories of the old days and talking about a few of the things he's done more from a commercial standpoint, the drink and golf courses and all this sort of stuff — stuff that I could potentially be getting into in the future."

He said Palmer also told him how close he was to his father.

"It was just great to be in his presence, and great to be in his company, and I had a good time," McIlroy said. □

Associated Press

Thunder star Kevin Durant has foot pain, remains out

By CLIFF BRUNT
AP Sports Writer

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) - Reigning NBA MVP Kevin Durant likely won't return this season.

General manager Sam Presti said Friday that Durant still has pain in his right foot, well after he was expected to be ready to return. When asked if the best thing would be best to shut him down for the season, Presti said: "Essentially, that's the direction that we're taking right now, in terms of removing him from all basketball-related activities."

Oklahoma City now faces the prospect of trying to make the playoffs without the four-time scoring champion. The Thunder led the New Orleans Pelicans by a game for the No. 8 spot in the Western Conference playoffs heading into Friday night's games. Durant is averaging 25.4



Oklahoma City Thunder forward Kevin Durant, left, and Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook (0) watch the final seconds of an NBA basketball game against the Dallas Mavericks, Monday, March 16, 2015, in Dallas. The Mavericks won 119-115.

Associated Press

points, 6.6 rebounds and 4.1 assists, but he's played in just 27 of the team's 68 games this season. He last played Feb. 19 against Memphis and had surgery three days later to replace

a screw that was causing discomfort in the right foot that he broke during the preseason. At the time, Brooks said Durant could return to the lineup in 1-2 weeks. The Thunder had

hoped to get a boost from Durant's return, but Presti said Durant's long-term health is his primary concern. Presti said he's unsure of the source of the current pain, so Durant will see specialists in the coming days. "He's not making the progress that we had hoped and anticipated him making," Presti said. "He still has some soreness in his foot, and the protocol that's in place calls for him to be able to compete on the floor without that at this stage."

This is just the latest in a barrage of bad news the Thunder have dealt with this season. Serge Ibaka, a versatile forward who is the team's best defensive player, could miss the rest of the season after having an arthroscopic procedure on his right knee earlier this week. Guard Russell Westbrook missed 14 games early in the season

with a broken bone in his left hand. Center Steven Adams recently returned from missing 11 games with a broken right hand. And newcomer Enes Kanter, who was supposed to cushion the blow from losing Ibaka, will miss Friday's game against Atlanta with a sprained left ankle. Presti said he feels for coach Scott Brooks.

"It's not easy when you've got a lot of guys in and out of lineups," he said. "I think he's done a really, really good job of managing that, of integrating new players that we've added. That's not an easy thing to do, either." Presti said Brooks' approach will help the Thunder remain competitive, regardless of who plays. "I think he's been steady, the way that he has been over the years, and that's one of the great things about Scotty," Presti said. □

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Federer rolls, Nadal upset by Raonic at Indian Wells



Roger Federer, of Switzerland, serves to Tomas Berdych, of the Czech Republic, during their match at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament, Friday, March 20, 2015 in Indian Wells, Calif. Federer won 6-4, 6-0.

BETH HARRIS

AP Sports Writer

INDIAN WELLS, Calif. (AP)

— Roger Federer defeated Tomas Berdych 6-4, 6-0 and Milos Raonic outlasted Rafael Nadal 4-6, 7-6 (10), 7-5 in a nearly three-hour marathon to set up a semifinal showdown at the BNP Paribas Open on Friday.

Federer improved to 15-1 this year, with his only loss coming against Andreas Seppi in the third round of the Australian Open. Federer avenged that defeat in the same round at Indian Wells. He earned his first straight-set win over Berdych since 2011 in Paris and just his second 6-0 set ever in 19 career matches against the Czech.

"I'm not the kind of guy who takes great joy out of bageling opponents, to be honest," said Federer, seeking a record fifth title in the desert.

He needed just 68 minutes to advance to the semis against the sixth-seeded Raonic.

"It was one of his very tough performances," Berdych said. "He was doing pretty much everything perfect." Top-ranked Serena Williams

played No. 3 seed Simona Halep and No. 18 Jelena Jankovic faced 24th-seeded Sabine Lisicki in evening semifinals. Williams is trying to reach the final for the first time since 2001, when she won as a 19-year-old and was heavily booed, leading to her 14-year boycott of the tournament.

Top-ranked Novak Djokovic takes on fourth-seeded Andy Murray in the other men's semifinal on Saturday.

Raonic beat three-time Indian Wells champion Nadal for the first time in six career meetings, firing 18 aces and hitting 48 winners to 25 winners for Nadal, who had 22 unforced errors.

They duelled in the second-set tiebreaker, when Nadal held three match points but he committed errors on two of them and Raonic smashed a winner on the other. Raonic had plenty of chances in the tiebreaker, too, finally converting on

his fifth set point when Nadal netted a shot.

Neither gave an inch in the third, staying on serve until the 11th game.

That's when Raonic earned the only break of the set, hitting a shot on the baseline that Nadal chased down but sent a backhand long. Raonic dropped just one point on his serve in the final game, winning on another backhand error by Nadal, who lost to a Canadian player for the first time in nine career matches.

Nadal's defeat prevented Djokovic, Federer, the Spaniard and Murray — the world's top four-ranked players — from reaching the semifinals at the same tournament since the 2012 Australian Open.

Federer had 21 winners, equaling the number of unforced errors by Berdych. Federer won 13 of 14 points at the net, never faced a break point on his serve, and broke Berdych four

times in the match, including three times in the second set.

"I was really able to utilize the court much more, play more angles, play with variation, spin and slice. I did that very well," Federer said. "Because I was serving well and moving well, so maybe there is not going to be that many chances for him on the return."

Federer served two love

games in the first set, when he lost just five points on his serve.

"When you feel that he's in control right from the beginning, then of course you have to come up with your best game from the beginning of the match," Berdych said. "There is a very thin line in between that and overdoing it. Today I stepped a little bit over it." □



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FRI 4:00 | 6:25 | 7:40 | 8:55 | 11:25
SAT 2:15 | 4:00 | 6:25 | 7:40 | 8:55 | 11:25
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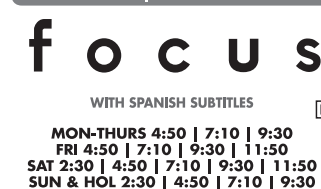
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Harden's gets career-best 50, Rockets win 118-108

The Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — James Harden scored a career-high 50 points with 10 rebounds to lead the Houston Rockets to a 118-108 win over the Denver Nuggets on Thursday night. Harden eclipsed his previous career-best of 46, set in 2013, on a free throw with about a minute remaining. On Houston's next possession, Trevor Ariza found him in the corner and he swished a 3 under heavy pressure, to make it 50. Six straight points by the Nuggets cut the lead to 8 with about five minutes left when the Rockets made the next five points, capped by a step back jump shot from Harden, to make it 104-91. Harden

scored seven points after that to secure the victory. It was the 29th game Harden had at least 30 points. **SUNS 74, PELICANS 72** **PHOENIX (AP)** — Brandon Wright scored 16 points and matched his career high with seven blocked shots, helping the Phoenix Suns to a sluggish, cold-shooting victory over a New Orleans Pelicans team playing without star Anthony Davis. Davis rolled his left ankle in the team's shootaround and his availability for the game at Golden State Friday was uncertain. The loss dropped New Orleans a game behind Oklahoma City for the eighth playoff spot in the West. Phoenix is 2½ behind Okla-

homa City and 1½ behind the Pelicans. Eric Gordon scored 14 for the Pelicans. **JAZZ 80, LAKERS 73** **LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Gordon Hayward scored 22 points, Trey Burke added 17 off the bench, and the Utah Jazz sent the Los Angeles Lakers to their 50th loss of the season. The Jazz, coming off an 88-84 loss against that Washington that ended a season-best six-game winning streak, are 12-2 since the All-Star break. The loss was the fourth in a row for the lottery-bound Lakers, who have dropped 25 of their last 30. **TIMBERWOLVES 95, KNICKS 92** **NEW YORK (AP)** — Zach



Houston Rockets' James Harden, left, drives against Denver Nuggets' Wilson Chandler (21) during the second half of an NBA basketball game Thursday, March 19, 2015, in Houston. Harden scored a career-high 50 points and grabbed 10 rebounds. The Rockets won 118-108. **Associated Press**



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LaVine made the tying and go-ahead free throws with 10.7 seconds left and scored six of his 20 points in overtime as the Minnesota Timberwolves outlasted the New York Knicks in a matchup of the NBA's biggest losers. Minnesota (15-53) ended a six-game losing streak and snapped a tie with the Knicks (14-54) for the NBA's worst record. New York

can still win for losing, and now has pole position in the race for the No. 1 draft pick. Kevin Martin scored 22 points and Andrew Wiggins had 20 for Minnesota despite shooting 4 for 17 from the field. Gorgui Dieng finished with 19 points and 11 rebounds, and his blocked shot triggered the fast break that set up LaVine's free throws. □



As Explorer loses ground, Microsoft readies new web browser

BRANDON BAILEY

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Look out, Internet Explorer. After 20 years of competing against rival web browsers, Microsoft is gearing up to launch its own alternative to its once-dominant Internet surfing program.

Microsoft has built a new web browser designed for the modern web and mobile devices to go with its new Windows 10 operating system that's coming later this year. Explorer will still be available, but Microsoft hinted this week that its new — and as-yet unnamed — browser will get top billing in the future.

"They want to be associated with something sexy and new," said tech analyst Al Hilwa, who follows Microsoft and other software companies for International Data Corp. "Explorer has gotten kind of a bad reputation for not being as fast as the Chromes and Firefoxes of this world," he said, referring to rival browsers from Google and

Mozilla.

Though exact estimates vary, market researchers say Explorer has been outpaced by Chrome in recent years as the world's most widely used web browser. While some analysts say Explorer is still the leader on desktop PCs, it lags far behind browsers made by Google, Mozilla and Apple for smartphones and tablets.

Explorer isn't going away completely, however. Many businesses use web-based software that relies on Explorer.

Microsoft will likely support both Explorer and the new browser for several more years, so it doesn't alienate business customers by forcing them to rebuild their systems from scratch, Hilwa said.

Microsoft unveiled the new browser, known inside the company as "Project Spartan," at a January press event. Corporate Vice President Joe Belfiore touted features designed to make it easier for users



This June 4, 2012 photo shows the Microsoft Internet Explorer logo projected on a screen during the Microsoft Xbox E3 media briefing in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

to view web pages, save them or share comments about them with friends. Even then, the company said it would continue offering Explorer with the new version of Windows.

But the tech world took note this week when Microsoft marketing chief Chris Capossela told a tech con-

ference in Atlanta that the company is in the process of choosing a new name that won't include the word "Explorer" — underscoring the difference from previous browser updates that were simply assigned numbers, such as Internet Explorer 11.

Microsoft didn't invent the

web browser, but it has invested heavily to promote Explorer since it was first launched in 1995. The company even had to answer government charges in the 1990s that it competed unfairly against the once-popular Netscape browser by combining Explorer with earlier versions of Windows.

In an industry that values the new and looks down on the old, Microsoft appears to be signaling Explorer's diminished status as a "legacy" product. Microsoft is betting heavily that its new Windows 10 software will appeal to computer users who are increasingly using mobile devices.

And in a terse statement, the company said Wednesday: "Project Spartan is Microsoft's next generation browser, built just for Windows 10. We will continue to make Internet Explorer available with Windows 10 for enterprises and other customers who require legacy browser support." □

Can't remember your password? Here are 2 new ways to log in

By BRANDON BAILEY

AP Technology Writer

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) —

Tired of trying to remember a different password for each of your online accounts? Or worried about re-using the same password too many times? You're not alone. Tech experts agree that traditional passwords are annoying, outmoded and too easily hacked.

This week, Yahoo and Microsoft offered up some alternatives: Yahoo says it can text temporary passwords to users' phones each time they want to sign into their Yahoo accounts. Microsoft says it is building facial-recognition and fingerprint-identification technology into Windows 10, the new computer operating system coming this summer, so users can log on with their fingertip or face. The two approaches drew different reviews.

Here's what you should know:

NEW DAY, NEW PASSWORD

Convenience and security. That's what Yahoo is promising users who choose to receive a single-use password "on demand" — sent by text message to their mobile phone each time they want to sign into their Yahoo account. Once you opt into the program, there's no more need to create or memorize a password for Yahoo's email or other services.

Not a good move, experts say. "Yahoo just made it easier for attackers to compromise an account," said Tim Erlin, risk strategist for the cybersecurity firm Tripwire. Temporary passwords can fall into the hands of anyone who steals your phone. While most phones can be set to require a separate password to unlock the home screen, many people don't bother to do so. Phones can also be infected with malware that intercepts or copies text messages, he said.

Though it may be convenient, Erlin said, Yahoo's



In this Feb. 27, 2013, file photo illustration, hands type on a computer keyboard in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

on-demand option is a step backward from another alternative the company offers, known as two-factor authentication. With that option, users must provide both a traditional password and a one-time code that is texted to their phones. That's considered stronger because a hacker would need both to get into a user's account.

Yahoo security chief Alex

Stamos agrees that two-factor authentication is stronger. But many people don't use it, he said in an online post defending against critics. Instead, people too often recycle short passwords that are easier to type, especially on small phone screens, but also easy for hackers to guess, he said.

Since most online services let users reset passwords

by sending a text or email to their phones, users are already vulnerable if they lose their device, Stamos argued.

"The truth is that passwords are so incredibly, ridiculously broken that it is almost impossible to keep users safe as long as we have any," Stamos wrote on his Twitter account. He said Yahoo is working on other solutions.

THE FUTURE

The concept of logging in by scanning your fingerprint or face used to seem like sci-fi. But the future is here.

Microsoft said this week that it is building "biometric authentication" technology into the next version of its Windows software, so that users can unlock computers or phones with their face, iris or fingerprint. The devices must have a fingerprint reader or a high-end camera with infrared sensors, which are becoming more common. □

Philips to spin off lighting business in IPO

CHAD BRAY

© 2015 New York Times

LONDON - Philips, the Dutch electronics giant, said this week that it planned to spin off its lighting business through an initial public offering next year.

The announcement is the latest move by Philips to restructure its operations and focus on growth. In September, Philips, based in Amsterdam, said that it planned to split itself into two companies: one fo-

cused on health care and technology, and the other on lighting.

The company said in a shareholder circular that it would most likely offer only a minority interest in the IPO, "followed by one or more secondary offerings, or by one or more other transactions, with the aim of full divestment of the Lighting Solutions company over time."

Shareholders are expected to consider the spinoff at the company's annual

meeting in May.

Philips said it expected the IPO in the first half of 2016, and that it would use the proceeds from the sale in part to fund growth in its HealthTech business, which is hoping to capitalize on the growing convergence of the health care and consumer sectors.

The lighting business will include three divisions that cover offerings like traditional light bulbs and complete lighting systems. The business had about 37,000

employees and posted sales of 1.98 billion euros, or about \$2.1 billion, in the fourth quarter.

The spinoff is not expected to include the company's automotive lighting and LED components businesses, which Philips said last year would be combined into a stand-alone company. Philips said it was in discussions with potential buyers and expected to complete a sale of those businesses in the first half of this year. □

Simon Property raises Macerich bid up to \$16.8B

JOSEPH PISANI

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Mall operator Simon Property boosted its hostile bid for rival Macerich by 5 percent to \$16.8 billion and said it will be its best and final offer.

The proposed deal would combine two of the largest U.S. shopping mall operators.

Simon set an April 1 deadline for Macerich to respond to the offer or it will be withdrawn.

Shares of Macerich dropped more than 4 percent in afternoon trading Friday while Simon Property shares edged higher.

Simon said Friday that it is now offering to pay \$95.50 per share for Macerich, up from its previous offer of \$91 per share. The new offer is valued at \$23.2 billion, when debt of about \$6.4 billion is included. Simon, which has a 3.6 percent stake in Macerich, said it won't seek to nominate directors for Macerich's board.

With the new offer, Macerich shareholders may put pressure on the company to discuss the deal, said analysts at Citi in a note to clients.

In a statement Friday, Macerich said it would review the new offer.

Macerich rejected Simon's first bid, saying the deal undervalued the company. It also said it had "serious antitrust concerns" because of Simon's partnership with General Growth Properties Inc. "It is a concerted effort by the two largest companies in the industry to acquire the number three company," Macerich said earlier this week.

Simon Property Group Inc., an Indianapolis real estate investment trust, went hostile earlier this month in making its offer public, saying that Macerich refused to negotiate a deal. Simon owns or has interest in more than 325 properties around the world, mainly outlets and malls. Macerich Co., based in Santa Monica, California, is a real estate investment trust that owns 51 shopping centers around the country. □

Wall Street surges on company results, oil rebound

KEN SWEET

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks advanced Friday, capping a strong week, helped by a recovery in the price of oil and earnings from Olive Garden owner Darden Restaurants and sportswear giant Nike.

The Nasdaq composite index inched closer to its all-time high set at the height of the dot-com bubble.

Once again, it was the Federal Reserve affecting much of this week's market movement. The Fed implied at the end of its two-day meeting Wednesday that its policymakers were in no hurry to raise interest rates with the U.S. economy still growing slowly and inflation extremely low. Friday's rally was partly an extension of that, strategists said. "The trepidation in the market before the Fed announcement has disappeared," said Kristina Hooper, U.S. investment strategist at Allianz Global Investments.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 168.62 points, or 0.9 percent, to 18,127.65. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 18.79 points, or 0.9 percent, to 2,108.06 and the Nasdaq composite added 34.04 points, or 0.7 percent, to 5,026.42.

The Nasdaq closed 22 points from the record high of 5,048 it set in March 2000. It has taken the Nasdaq 15 years to recover from the dot-com bubble, while the S&P 500 and Dow recovered their losses in 2007 and 2006, respectively.

Dow member Nike was among the biggest gainers Friday, rising \$3.66, or 3.7 percent, to \$101.98. Nike's results beat expectations, but investors focused more on the fact that foreign sales remain strong despite the rising dollar and overseas market volatility.

The rapid rise in the dollar has been a particular sore spot for investors. The dollar

jewelry maker Tiffany & Co., which cut its full-year profit forecast, saying the higher dollar was making its products less attractive to foreign buyers. Tiffany's stock fell \$3.44, or 4 percent, to \$82.93.

"The dollar's appreciation has been rapid and it's become a problem for many of these companies who have significant ex-

tor gained 2 percent.

Oil ended a volatile week up 2 percent even after dropping to its lowest level in six years on Tuesday. Oil inventories are at record highs, but the number of rigs drilling for oil is falling fast and a sliding U.S. dollar is making oil a more attractive investment to overseas buyers.

Brent crude, the interna-



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Friday, March 20, 2015. Stocks were moving higher Friday as oil prices recovered from their decline the previous day. Strong earnings from restaurant chain Darden and Nike also helped lift the market.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

is up more than 8 percent against the major currencies this year, which makes goods made in the U.S. more expensive abroad and has had a direct negative impact on sales. The dollar rose to 120.09 yen from 120.76 yen Thursday. The euro rose to \$1.0809 from \$1.0668 the previous day.

The latest example was

posure to foreign markets," said Russ Koesterich, BlackRock's global chief investment strategist.

Oil also helped the market Friday. After dropping more than 3 percent Thursday, U.S. benchmark oil for April delivery jumped \$1.76, or 4 percent, to \$45.72 a barrel. Energy stocks rose far more than the rest of the market. The S&P 500's energy sec-

tional standard, rose 89 cents, or 1.6 percent, to \$55.32 a barrel.

In other futures trading on the NYMEX:

— Wholesale gasoline rose 2.4 cents to close at \$1.798 a gallon.

— Heating oil rose 1.2 cents to close at \$1.734 a gallon.

— Natural gas fell 2.7 cents to close at \$2.786 per 1,000 cubic feet. □

Your Money:

A Scary Movie: Filling Your 401(k) With Company Stock

RON LIEBER

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We've seen the movie before, when employees of Enron and Lehman Brothers lost large sums of money in their 401(k) plans because of investments in company stock. And now, coming to a theater (and, inevitably, a courtroom) near you, is a sequel, surely not the last, this time featuring RadioShack.

The company filed for bankruptcy protection last month, after years of lackluster interest from customers who once flocked to the stores for their doodads and gizmos. The company's stock trades over the counter for spare change, after a slow-motion disintegration over the last five years.

In September, when the stock was still worth a small handful of quarters, the company stopped allowing employees to invest in it through their retirement plan, but employees filed suit, claiming that the company should have shielded them from the damage sooner. The Department of Labor has begun its own inquiry, as well.

So the lawyers and the bankers are now the protagonists, as they have been in all of these movies. But an obvious question lingers: Why do so many companies and employees keep signing up to be a part of all this drama?

Employer stock in 401(k) plans is less common than it used to be, but it's still in plenty of them. According to Aon Hewitt's 2013

survey data, 39 percent of employers offer their stock as an investment option. Among those companies, 12 percent go much further, requiring that the employer match of workers' contributions from their paychecks be in company stock. Most let employees

13 percent. At least the number of companies where more than half of the 401(k) plan assets are in company stock has fallen over time; in 2004 it was 13 percent, but in 2013 it was just 2.2 percent.

Why do companies allow and encourage such

David Blanchett, the head of retirement research for Morningstar Investment Management, found that companies with higher allocations of employer stock in their 401(k) plans tend to underperform their peers in the year after that overweighting exists.

that's fine. Others let employees gamble on their employer's shares through an employee stock purchase plan that is separate from a 401(k), occasionally offering a small discount on the purchase. There, workers use discretionary money of their own if they so choose, and hey, if you want to turn your office into a trading floor, so be it.

But we're talking about people's golden years here - and trying not to tarnish them with enormous losses. When an employer offers its stock (let alone matches contributions with it) as an option, it's effectively an endorsement, an implicit statement from the employer that this investment is a reasonably good idea. Otherwise, why would it be on the 401(k) menu? Once it's there, employees who think they know more about their employer than they do about the mutual funds on the menu (a perfectly reasonable supposition) will be tempted to overweight their 401(k) contributions toward the employer stock fund.

All of this, however, is incredibly risky. When you're getting your income from an employer - and your livelihood literally depends on that company - it makes little sense to make a big bet on the company stock with money that you'll need if you ever want to stop working when you're old and gray.

Continued on Page 27



A RadioShack store in New York. The company filed for bankruptcy protection in February, after years of lackluster interest from customers who once flocked to the stores for their doodads and gizmos.
(Sam Hodgson/The New York Times)

swap it for something else right away, but inertia often keeps them from doing so.

The Plan Sponsor Council of America, using a different data set, lays out the results of such policies: When employees have the option (or are required because of a match) to invest in company stock through a 401(k) plan, a fair number do. On average, about 18.1 percent of assets are invested that way, while the median is

investments? There were once plenty of good theories. If employees owned a lot of stock, they might vote their shares with management if hostile forces were trying to take the company over. And encouraging employees to have skin in the game is good, as it gives them incentive to work hard and rewards them for greater effort.

The data related to these theories can be counter-intuitive, though. In 2013,

His theory: Employees increase their allocation to the stock after the stock performs well, just in time for it to reverse course.

There are many negatives to allowing employees to invest in their own company in their retirement plans. Let's start with the stipulation, which shouldn't be necessary but clearly is anyway, that these are retirement plans. Some employers offer stock grants or bonuses as a form of extra compensation, and

Retailer Target plans to raise pay to at least \$9 an hour

HIROKO TABUCHI

© 2015 New York Times

Target said this week that it would increase the pay of its workers to at least \$9 an hour, joining retailers like Wal-Mart and TJX in raising its hourly wage in a more competitive job market and facing pressure from labor groups.

Target, a retailer with about 347,000 U.S. workers, has begun telling them that they will start

to receive higher wages this spring, according to a person with knowledge of the company's plans. The retailer has said it already pays all of its employees more than the federal minimum wage, \$7.25 an hour.

Brian Cornell, Target's chief executive, told financial analysts this month that the company would make sure that it remained "very competitive from a

wage standpoint." Target said that it did not expect those efforts to affect its earnings.

Molly Snyder, a Target spokeswoman, said that the company did not disclose pay, but that it was continuously evaluating pay levels.

Target, which is making a turnaround after years of lackluster sales, said last week that it was laying off 1,700 corporate employ-

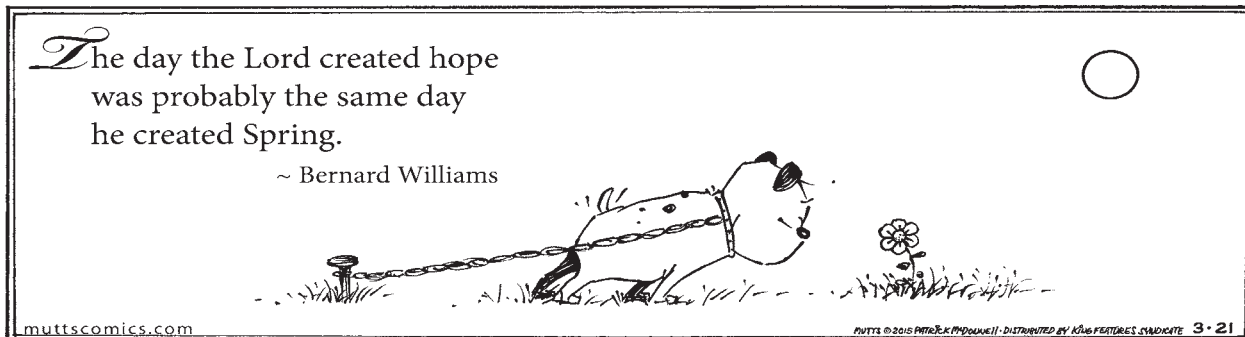
ees in a cost-cutting drive at its Minneapolis headquarters. Target aims for a cost savings of \$2 billion in two years to reinvest in areas like food, e-commerce and supply-chain technology.

Wal-Mart last month took the lead in announcing a raise for its hourly workers, saying they would earn at least \$9 an hour by April and at least \$10 by February. Since then, TJX, which

operates TJ Maxx, Marshalls and Home Goods stores, said it would increase wages this year.

Pay is rising in the retail industry as an improved job outlook has increased competition for low-wage, hourly workers. The economy is adding jobs rapidly, the jobless rate is at its lowest level since 2008 and wages are climbing slowly, government figures showed last week. □

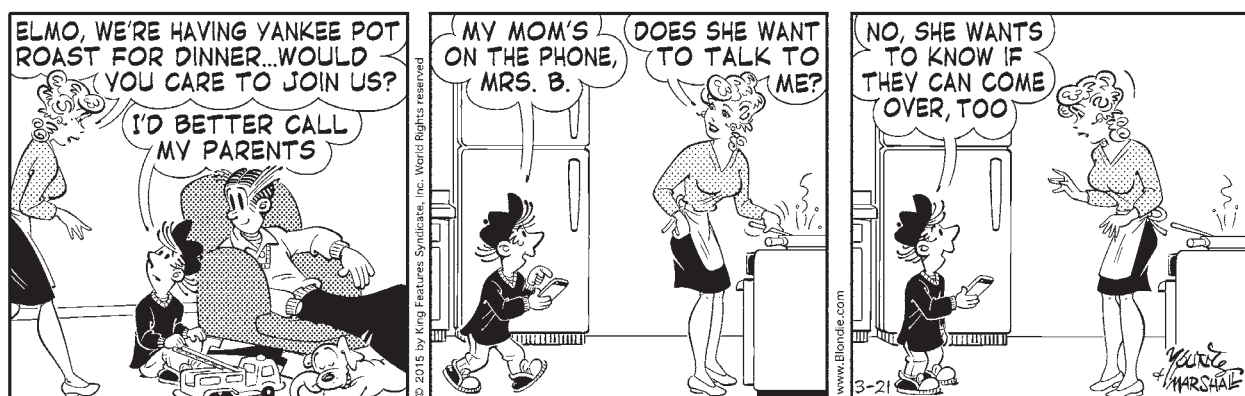
Mutts



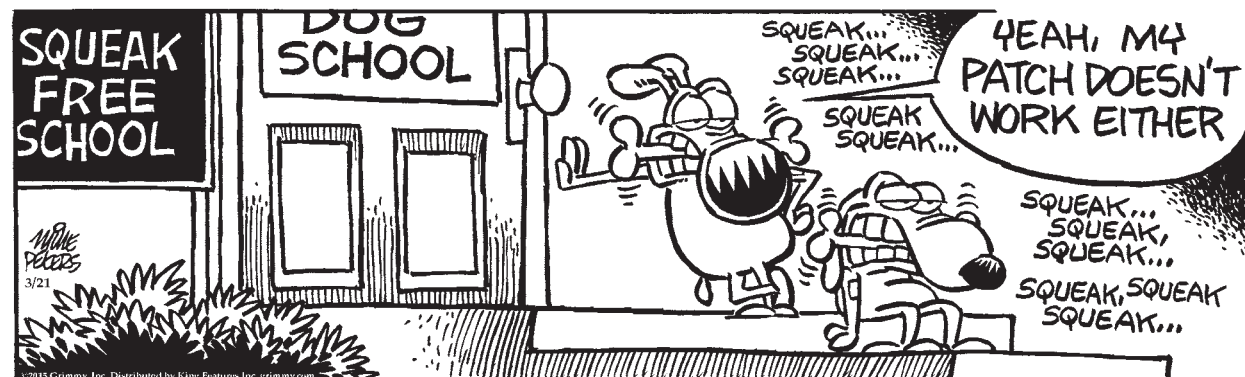
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	5		3			9		
		2	9				6	8
			8			1		
8								
3			5		8			7
								4
		4			5			
7	3				4	5		
		1			6		3	

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

3/21

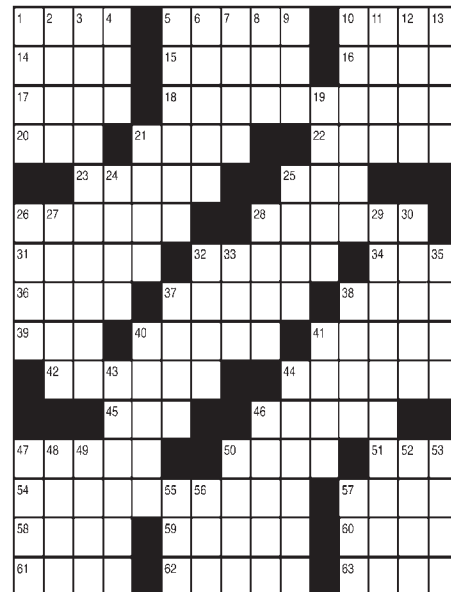
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

3	5	7	8	4	6	1	9	2
4	2	6	9	1	5	7	8	3
9	1	8	7	3	2	6	5	4
6	3	4	5	2	8	9	1	7
8	7	1	4	6	9	3	2	5
5	9	2	1	7	3	4	6	8
7	4	5	6	8	1	2	3	9
2	6	9	3	5	4	8	7	1
1	8	3	2	9	7	5	4	6

ACROSS

- 1 Film director —
Preminger
5 Meager
10 Have nothing
to do with
14 Requirement
15 Forbidden
16 Long sandwich
17 Deuce or trey
18 Beaver State
residents
20 Screw up
21 — on;
trampled
22 Nervous
23 Go out on —;
take a chance
25 “— Maria”
26 Movie awards
28 Warns
31 T-Mobile store
purchase
32 Baked donut-
shaped roll
34 Blushing
36 Carryall
37 Norman —;
“Psycho” role
38 Eat
39 Took a chair
40 Earnings
41 On the —; free
to the customer
42 Can wrappers
44 — up;
recapped
45 Over the hill
46 Flock members
47 Fodder towers
50 Jacuzzi
51 Wheel center
54 School subject
57 Out of danger
58 — clean; fess
up
59 Board
60 Shoelace
problem
61 Patella's place
62 Takes on
employees
63 “— Wonderful
Life”



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

3/21/15

- 3 Reddish clay
used for pottery
4 Unusual
5 Blizzards
6 Chocolate
substitute
7 In the sack
8 Holiday drink
9 Excessively
10 Black eye
11 Warmth
12 Fancy vases
13 Prying
19 Belly button
21 Grow weary
24 Lois —; Clark
Kent's love
25 Pub orders
26 — for; selects
27 Sandbank
28 Grows gray
29 Victorious
30 Taste or sight
32 Paper sacks
33 Suffix for alien
or passion
35 Feat; exploit
37 Shiny on top
38 Capitol roof,
usually

Friday's Puzzle Solved

S	O	N	S	L	O	P	E	B	A	D	E
A	W	E	S	C	O	L	E	S	I	B	E
N	E	A	L	R	O	G	E	T	G	L	E
S	T	A	L	E	M	A	T	E	W	E	D
T	E	A	S	E	L	I					
E	G	O	I	S	M	D	A	M	A	G	I
R	U	I	N	S	D	A	L	E	S	G	O
R	I	N	G	M	U	T	E	D	A	L	S
E	L	K	T	A	P	E	S	F	L	O	E
D	E	S	E	R	T	E	D	M	O	R	E
S	A	T									
C	H	I	C	R	E	P	E	N	T	A	N
O	A	T	H		E	X	I	L	E	D	E
R	I	S	E		S	I	T	A	R	Y	E
D	R	A	W		S	T	A	Y	S		

3/21/15

- 40 Language
heard in Wales
41 Colors
43 Baby's sock
44 Huts
46 Backbone
47 Knock down, in
football
48 Common metal
49 Green citrus
50 Night sparkler
52 Eerie saucers,
for short
53 Greek letter
55 Speedometer
letters
56 Actor Wallach
57 — lift; T-bar

DOWN

- 1 A single time
2 Shred

Your Money

Continued from Page 25

Employees do this anyway, however, and they do not seem to get themselves out of the investments even when the warning signs are already all around them. A paper by the academics Ying Duan, Edith S. Hotchkiss and Yawen Jiao, studied 729 troubled publicly traded companies over 20 years and found that the amounts of money that employees had in company stock remained relatively stable during periods of trouble, as did their new contributions. This is true even as the stock prices decline and the number of investors betting against the stock in the public markets through short sales increases.

This is what seems to have happened at RadioShack, where the average number of shares that employees held through the 401(k) plan increased in recent years even as the company's share price fell steadily. The lawsuit will determine whether the company should have stopped its employees from making what turns out to have been a foolish bet.

The message of this and other movies like it is clear for employees: Don't do this. If your employer matches your 401(k) contribution in company stock, set a calendar alert to remind yourself to sell it a few times each year and then reinvest it. If your employer

restricts your ability to sell it right away and makes you keep it for a few years, complain loudly to human resources; most companies don't do that anymore.

Even if an employer stock fund is one choice among many in your 401(k) plan, ask yourself this: Given the employment risk you already face by getting your income from a single source, do you really want to bet even part of your retirement money on that company? How much do you really know about its prospects, its competitors and forces way beyond your control? And how much are you willfully blind to?

If you're one of the many people who weighs in on the investment menu for your company's retirement plan, think hard about simply getting rid of the company stock plan altogether, or at least capping the size of the bet that delusional employees can make on the company stock. Might the stock price take a hit once word gets out? Perhaps, but you can couple the change with a strongly worded news release that you're doing this only to force workers to diversify their retirement investments and that your employee stock purchase plan and stock grants for executive compensation purposes continue unabated. The chief executive could even buy a bunch more stock in the open market that very day. □

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jazb1@aol.com

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DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad
March 21 Dr. Horenbeek
March 22 Dr. Sneek

EMERGENCIA 911



POLIS	100
POLIS	581-1100
ORANJESTAD	582-4000
NOORD	587-0009
STA. CRUZ	585-4710
SAVANETA	584-7000
SAN NICOLAS	584-5000
FIRE DEPT.	115
FIRE DEPT.	582-1108
POLIS TIPLINE	11141
HOSPITAL	527-4000
AMBULANCE	582-1234
SAN NICOLAS	
AMBULANCE	584-5050

PHARMACY

Oranjestad: Oduber Tel: 582-1780
San Nicolas: San Lucas Tel: 584-5119

INFORMATION	118
SETAR	582-2116
TAXI	582-5900
TAXI-TAS	587-5900
PROF. TAXI	588-0035
TAXI D.T.S.	587-2300
SERVICE ARUBA	583-3232

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March 22
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Carnival Pride



Aruba Aiport	524-2424
American Airline	582-2700
Avianca	588-0059
Dutch Antilles	588-1900
Insel Air	588-9314
Jet Blue	588-2244
Spirit Airlines	582-7117
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pa Prohimo

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24/7

Feds document seabird loss in North Pacific waters

By DAN JOLING
Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)

The number of seabirds, including gulls, puffins and auklets, has dropped significantly in the Gulf of Alaska and northeast Bering Sea, a possible consequence of warmer waters, according to a preliminary federal analysis of nearly 40 years of surveys.

U.S. Geological Survey experts found the seabird population density declined 2 percent annually from 1975 to 2012 in the northeast North Pacific, said John Piatt, research wildlife biologist at the USGS Alaska Science Center.

"Biologically speaking, that's a pretty major change," he said.

Piatt and researcher Gary Drew suspect the decline may be tied to less food availability, a consequence of warmer ocean temperatures that occur in cycles over decades.

Seabird populations could bounce back as water cools, Piatt said, but decadal cycles could ultimately be superseded by global warming.

"That's what a lot of people are concerned about," he said.

"We don't know. We're just learning about the Pacific Decadal Oscillations and that they're important."



In this June 4, 2008 file photo, puffins sit above murrens on the cliff on St. Paul Island, Alaska.

Associated Press

The analysis of seabird surveys began in earnest in 1989.

"We started pulling together some of these data bases after the Exxon Valdez oil spill when it was clear we needed to get a better handle on densities of birds at sea to assess damages,"

Piatt said.

The result was the creation of the North Pacific Pelagic Seabird Database.

It includes bird counts from 350,000 ship transects, the plotted paths to systematically make measurements. To make sense of the numbers, researchers looked for

blocks of water where at least 10 surveys had been conducted in a given year in all four decades.

"We pulled out places where there was repetition. It gave us 72 blocks of water for which we had data spanning 40 years," Piatt said.

Exxon Valdez oil killed a lot of birds, Piatt said, but seabird numbers also declined outside the spill area.

"It was much bigger than the oil spill," Piatt said.

Starting in the late 1970s, atmospheric circulation changed. Water temperatures that had been colder than average for a decade shifted to several degrees warmer than average for more than 30 years.

The changes were tied to effects from Pacific Decadal Oscillations. The term describing climate variability was coined by fisheries scientist Steven Hare, who researched connections between Alaska salmon production cycles and Pacific climate.

NASA describes the oscillations as long-term ocean fluctuations that wax and wane every 20 to 30 years. With warmer water, phytoplankton bloomed earlier. Zooplankton fed on phytoplankton and developed earlier, providing abundant food for early spawning fish such as halibut, pollock and cod and leaving less

food for late spawners such as capelin, a type of smelt consumed by seabirds.

"This was a magnitude-9 earthquake in the ecosystem," Piatt said.

"Everything changed afterward, including marine birds."

Counts at bird colonies were not part of the USGS review. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service seabird researcher David Irons said trends at colonies are generally in sync with the at-sea data. Seabird numbers fell at some colonies in the mid-1980s and afterward but eventually leveled off or increased.

"Basically the decline leveled off around 2000," Irons said.

The USGS review goes through 2012.

As water temperatures have cooled in recent years, some bird numbers have ticked up, Piatt said. The historical record indicates wildlife such as salmon has booms and busts in population corresponding to natural cycles in the environment.

"The animals are responsive to changes in the environment," he said.

The more worrisome issue is global warming that could supersede decadal pulses.

"The background increase in global temperature is a happening fact," he said. "It's not hypothetical." □

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This undated photo provided by LIST Sotheby's International Realty shows a home in Waimanalo, Hawaii once used for the filming of the 1980s television show "Magnum, P.I."

Associated Press

Hawaii's "Magnum, P.I." home sold to Barack Obama's close friend

HONOLULU (AP) — A sprawling beachfront home used in the filming of the 1980s television show "Magnum, P.I." has sold for \$8.7 million to a close friend of President Barack Obama.

An attorney for Marty Nesbitt said Thursday that his client bought the property. Seth Madorsky says Nesbitt didn't have any partners or co-investors in the deal.

The 3-acre property is in Waimanalo, next to the town of Kailua where the Obama family has spent the winter holidays in recent years.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Friday that Obama was not behind the purchase.

Tom Selleck's character lived in the house on "Magnum P.I." It was known as "Robin's Nest" on the show.

Nesbitt is a Chicago businessman who served as treasurer for Obama's first presidential run. He is the chairman of the Barack Obama Foundation, which will build the president's future library. □

Actor Harrison Ford, who recently crashed plane, is air film narrator

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Harrison Ford, who recently crashed his vintage airplane on a Los Angeles golf course, is returning to the skies — at least with his voice.

National Geographic Studios announced Thursday that Ford will narrate a documentary being released next month called "Living in the Age of Airplanes."

The giant-screen film that was shot from the air over 18 countries gives a history of a century of aviation. The film premieres April 8 at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum in Washington and two days



In this Aug. 11, 2014 file photo, Harrison Ford arrives at the premiere of "The Expendables 3" at TCL Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

later will open on IMAX and similar screens.

The announcement comes as Ford, a longtime pilot and aviation enthusiast,

is still recovering from the March 5 crash-landing of a World War II-era plane whose engine failed shortly after takeoff. □



Al Pacino, right, and director Dan Fogelman attend the premiere of "Danny Collins" at AMC Lincoln Square on Wednesday, March 18, 2015, in New York.

Associated Press

For director, landing Pacino was something to sing about

MIKE CIDONI LENNOX
AP Entertainment Writer
BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)

— "Danny Collins" casts Al Pacino as a veteran pop star who still fills arenas, has a gaggle of granny-aged groupies and a signature song with a call-and-response element that smacks of "Sweet Caroline."

But Danny Collins is not Neil Diamond.

"I've got a kind of equal-dosage mix of Neil Diamond, Rod Stewart, a lot of Tom Jones and a little Barry Manilow — those seem to be the four that people ask about the most," said writer-director Dan Fogelman, whose big-screen dramedy opens this weekend. "Collins" actually was inspired by something that happened to another musician. Some 45 years ago, English folk singer-songwriter Steve Tilston did a magazine interview acknowledging a fear that wealth and fame may negatively affect his songwriting. That statement inspired John Lennon to dash off a letter to Tilston in 1971.

"Being rich doesn't change your experience in the way you think," Lennon wrote. Tilston didn't even learn about the letter until 2005, nearly 25 years after Lennon's death, when a collector reached out to confirm authenticity. A 2010 story on Tilston caught Fogelman's attention, but, excepting the part about the Lennon letter — a key plot element of the film — "Danny Collins" isn't Tilston's story either.

Tilston stayed true to his acoustic-folk roots and, as

per Fogelman, has enjoyed happy and productive personal and professional lives. Collins sold his soul for stardom, and just may reclaim it in the most unexpected places: the embittered grown son he never knew (Bobby Cannavale) and a harried hotel manager (Annette Bening) who is unimpressed by Collins' star facade, but sees a promise for that man buried underneath it.

Once the 39-year-old Fogelman (a co-writer on Pixar's "Cars" 'toons) got the rights to Tilston's story, he crafted the "Collins" script specifically for Pacino, whom the director idolized growing up in New Jersey. That was a big risk, given Fogelman had no relationship with the Oscar-winning actor.

"When Al signed on to this movie, I was a 34-year-old guy who had never directed a movie before, who was best known for writing cartoon movies about talking cars," Fogelman said. "Honestly, him reading the script alone is a career highlight. And then him doing the movie is a career highlight. So, I'm kind of good." □

Rare Tennessee Williams story published for first time

HILLEL ITALIE

AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — As she takes in the despair of her in-laws' one-room apartment in "A Streetcar Named Desire," Blanche Dubois exclaims, "Only Poe! Only Mr. Edgar Allan Poe could do it justice!" Years earlier, Tennessee Williams channeled Poe for an entire story.

Williams' "The Eye That Saw Death," appearing in the spring issue of *The Strand Magazine*, is a feverish, 4,800-word horror tale clearly inspired by the patron of the genre. Recently unearthed by *Strand* managing editor Andrew F. Gulli, "The Eye That Saw Death" is narrated by an unnamed man who has suffered from a seemingly incurable disease that has left him nearly blind. At age 30, he receives an eye transplant that restores his sight, but leaves him with ghoulish side effects. The narrator is afflicted with visions that begin as a "chaotic blur," then become more focused and traumatizing, whether "huge, black, bulging eyes" or "terrible, tusk-like teeth."

The new eye, it turns out, belonged to a convicted killer. The narrator begs to have the surgery reversed. "It is true that the pleasures of the blind are few and frugal," Williams writes. "They live apart from the world and participate little in its affairs. But I do not regret that choice I made the day I fell, raving mad with horror, to the floor of the oculist's office. Oh, never! Far, far better to be blind than to see with the eye that saw death!" Gulli, who has previously published little-known works by Graham Greene and John Steinbeck among others, found "The Eye That Saw Death" at one of the country's leading literary archives, the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas at Austin. Williams scholar George Crandell says the undated work is a "pretty good story" and surprisingly polished for a piece never published before. Crandell is especially impressed because he thinks Williams was likely in high school when he completed it. "The story has a similar feel to 'The Vengeance of



This Nov. 11, 1940 file photo shows playwright Tennessee Williams at his typewriter in New York. Williams' "The Eye That Saw Death," will appear in the spring issue of *The Strand Magazine*. "The Eye That Saw Death" has a fable-like quality even as its plot recalls Poe's "The Tell-Tale Heart."

Associated Press

Nitocris,' kind of a horror story that was published in *Weird Tales* in 1928 (when Williams was 16)," says Crandell, the associate dean of Auburn University's graduate school and a member of the editorial board of the literary journal the *Tennessee Williams Annual Review*. "The Eye That Saw Death"

has a fable-like quality even as its plot recalls Poe's "The Tell-Tale Heart." It reads like an inversion of Greek mythology, in which the blind are not prophets or wise men, but those who truly will not see — or like an allegory for creative expression, when the artist is almost literally tortured by his vision.

Williams had good reason to be preoccupied with eyesight. He had poor vision in his left eye and would undergo four cataract operations, one of which he describes in "Memoirs," published in 1975. In a humorous but unsettling scenario that his early short story seemed to anticipate, Williams remembers agreeing to a procedure for which the doctor waived his fee in return for Williams allowing the operation to be the basis of a lecture to observing student ophthalmologists.

"The patient is now in position, apply the straps," Williams remembers, roughly, the doctor saying.

"Tighter, tighter, he has a history of vomiting during the surgery. Eyelids secured against blinking, pupil anesthetized now. The needle is now about to penetrate the iris. It is now into the iris. It has now penetrated the lens. Oh, oh, vomiting, nurse, choking, tube in esophagus. My God, what a patient. I mean very good, of course, but an unusual case." □



Chris Brown, right, appears with his attorney Mark Geragos, at a court hearing in the R&B singer's long-running case over his 2009 attack on Rihanna in Los Angeles on Friday, March 20, 2015.

ANTHONY McCARTNEY

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A judge ended Chris Brown's probation Friday and closed the R&B singer's assault case filed over his brutal attack on his then-girlfriend Rihanna more than six years ago. Superior Court Judge James R. Brandlin said

Brown had completed community labor requirements as part of his felony assault case and officially closed the case after more than six years.

Brown and his attorney Mark Geragos hugged in the courtroom and again in a courthouse elevator. After the hearing, he tweeted, "IM OFF PRO-

Court closes Chris Brown's case over 2009 Rihanna assault

BATION!!!!!! Thank the Lord!!!!!!"

Brown, 25, has been under supervision by court and probation officials since mid-2009 when he pleaded guilty to attacking Rihanna just hours before the Grammy Awards. The attack led to immediate fallout for Brown, although his career has partially rebounded and he went on to win a Grammy Award three years after the attack.

The singer initially avoided problems with the case, but since 2013 has struggled to complete his community service obligations and had his probation revoked in January after he performed a show in Northern California without permission.

Brown's attorney Mark

Geragos has told Brandlin his office had inadvertently told Brown he could travel without permission.

"I couldn't be more delighted," Geragos said after the hearing.

"He is in a spot right now and a place right now that I couldn't be prouder of him," Geragos said of Brown. He said Friday's hearing was "a monumental feat for him."

Prosecutors in 2013 questioned whether he had complied with the terms of his community labor sentence and Brandlin briefly revoked his probation over a hit-and-run case filed against the singer over a fender bender.

Later that year, Brown struck a man outside a Washington hotel and was charged with misde-

meanor assault. Brown was ordered into rehab but was dismissed from the facility for violating its rules and spent two-and-a-half months in custody, with U.S. marshals shuttling him between Los Angeles and the nation's capital for court hearings.

Brown missed the January deadline to complete his community labor sentence performing manual labor such as roadside cleanup or graffiti removal.

The singer underwent domestic violence and anger management counseling, and Brandlin ordered him into rehab. While in treatment the singer was diagnosed with bipolar disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder and complications from substance abuse. □

To Kill a Chicken



NICHOLAS KRISTOF
© 2015 New York Times

If you torture a single chicken and are caught, you're likely to be arrested. If you scald thousands of chickens alive, you're an industrialist who will be lauded for your acumen.

That's my conclusion after reviewing video footage taken by an undercover investigator for Mercy for Animals, an animal rights group. The investigator said he worked for two months in a North Carolina poultry slaughterhouse and routinely saw chickens have their legs or wings broken, sometimes repeatedly - or, worse, be scalded to death. "It made me sick to my stomach," said the investigator, who insisted on remaining anonymous because he continues to work undercover elsewhere. He described it as torture.

Matt Rice, the director of investigations for Mercy for Animals, noted that federal rules on humane slaughter apply to cattle, hogs and sheep, but not to poultry - even though birds amount to 95 percent of farm animals killed each year in America.

"I think most Americans would be shocked that 95 percent of farm animals aren't protected by the few laws we have," Rice said.

What's striking about the undercover video, which Mercy for Animals plans to release on its website this weekend, is the speed of the assembly line, leading workers to fall behind in ways that inflict agony on the chickens. It's a process that maximizes productivity and profits, and also pain.

Workers grab the birds and shove their legs upside down into metal shackles on a conveyor belt. The chickens are then carried upside down to an electrified bath that is meant to knock them unconscious. The conveyor belt then carries them - at a pace of more than two chickens per second - to a circular saw that cuts open their necks so that they bleed to death before they are scalded in hot water and their feathers plucked.

Even when the system works as intended, the birds sometimes have legs or wings broken as they are shackled, the investigator said. And when it doesn't work correctly, the birds' end can be horrifying.

Some chickens aren't completely knocked out by the electric current and can be seen struggling frantically. Others avoid the circular saw somehow. A

backup worker is supposed to cut the throat of those missed by the saw, but any that get by him are scalded alive, the investigator said.

The Agriculture Department calculates that about 700,000 chickens a year in the United States are "not slaughtered correctly" - often a euphemism for being scalded to death.

That number has come down - it was 1.5 million in 2007 - and it's a tiny fraction of slaughtered birds. Agriculture Department officials say that it happens to only 0.008 percent of chickens that are slaughtered in the United States, and that those birds are then discarded (meaning that the slaughterhouses have a financial incentive to reduce the number scalded alive).

"The rate at which birds are not slaughtered correctly has plummeted," says Phil Derfler of the Agriculture Department. "Our goal is always to drive that number as close to zero as possible." I asked the undercover investigator about this. He cast doubt on those numbers, saying that a higher percentage were scalded alive where he worked, and that those birds were not discarded but processed along with others.

The company that operates the slaughterhouse, Wayne Farms, said it had reviewed the video and found no evidence of abuse. A spokesman, Frank Singleton, said that the company uses "industry-standard methods of humane slaughter."

And he's right. Nothing shown in the video is illegal or violates industry standards. So I encourage you to go to mercyforanimals.org and watch the video and form your own judgment about industry norms.

Most American consumers are, like me, conflicted. We eat meat, but we don't want animals to suffer needlessly. One national poll last year found that 81 percent of consumers said that it was important to them that chickens they eat be humanely raised.

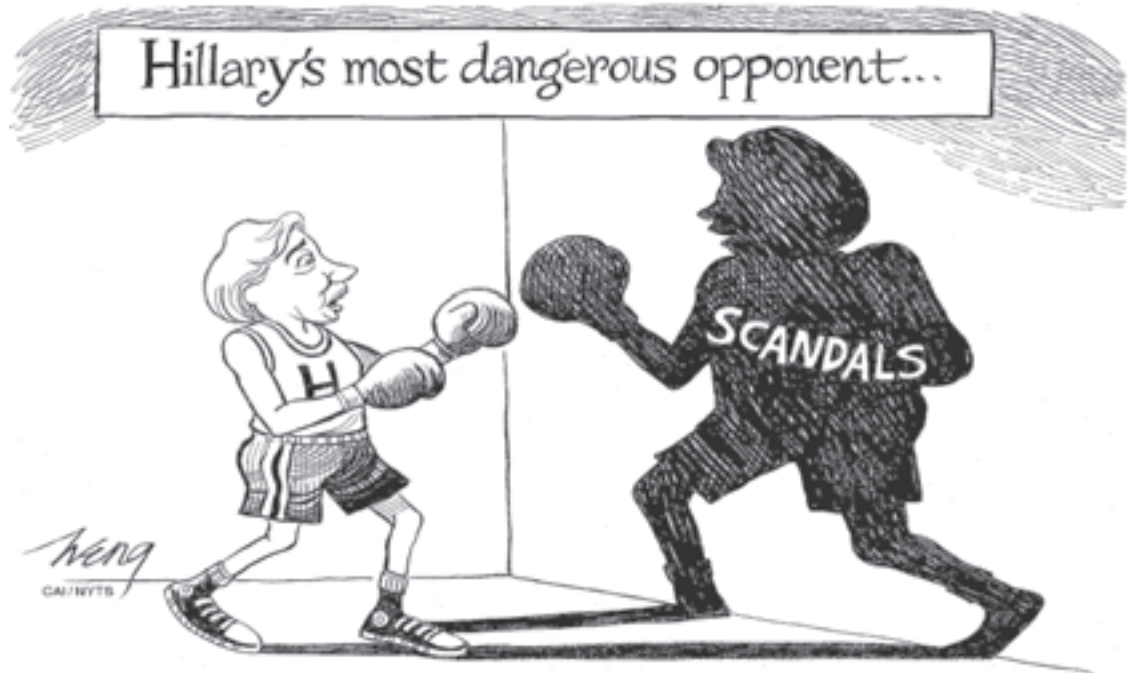
I raised chickens as a farmboy. They're not as smart as pigs or as loyal as dogs, but they make great moms, can count and have distinct personalities. They are not widgets.

One alternative to the present "industry standard" is controlled atmosphere stunning or killing, a system used in Europe in which birds are painlessly put to sleep while still in transport cages. The system is allowed in the United States, but it is barely used.

A bit more than a century ago, Upton Sinclair revealed the horrors of U.S. slaughterhouses, leading to federal reforms that benefit livestock but not poultry. For birds, an equivalent reform would be controlled atmosphere killing.

Think about that. If a naughty boy pulls feathers out of a single chicken, he's punished. But scald hundreds of thousands of chickens alive each year? That's a business model.

Contact Nicholas Kristof at Facebook.com/Kristof, Twitter.com/NickKristof or by mail at The New York Times, 620 Eighth Ave., New York, NY 10018. □



An Open Letter to hdr22



MAUREEN DOWD
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clintonemail.com
WASHINGTON - Since open letters to secretive and duplicitous regimes are in fashion, we would like to post an Open Letter to the Leaders of the Clinton Republic of Chappaqua:

It has come to our attention while observing your machinations during your attempted restoration that you may not fully understand our constitutional system. Thus, we are writing to bring to your attention two features of our democracy: the importance of preserving historical records and the ill-advised glut of an American feminist icon wallowing in regressive Middle Eastern states' payola.

You should seriously consider these characteristics of our nation as the Campaign-That-Must-Not-Be-Named progresses. If you, Hillary Rodham Clinton, are willing to cite your mother's funeral to get sympathy for ill-advisedly deleting 30,000 emails, it just makes us want to sigh: OK, just take it. If you want it that bad, go ahead and be president and leave us in peace. (Or war, if you have your hawkish way.) You're still idling on the runway, but we're already jet-lagged. It's all so dreadfully familiar that I know we're only moments away from James Carville writing a column in David Brock's Media Matters, headlined, "In Private, Hillary's Really a Hoot."

When you grin and call out to your supporters, like at the Emily's List anniversary gala, "Don't you someday want to see a woman president of the United States of America?" the answer is: Yes, it would be thrilling. But therein lies the rub.

What is the trade-off that will be exacted by the Chappaqua Republic for that yearned-for moment? When the Rogue State of Bill began demonizing Monica Lewinsky as a troubled stalker, you knew you could count on the complicity of feminists and Democratic women in Congress. Bill's female Cabinet members and feminist supporters had no choice but to accept the unappetizing quid pro quo: The Clintons would give women progressive public policies as long as the women didn't assail Bill for his regressive private behavior with women.

Now you, Hillary, are following the same disheartening "We'll make you an offer you can't refuse" pattern. You started the "Guerica" press conference defending your indefensible droit du seigneur over your State Department emails by referring to women's rights and denouncing the letter to Iran from Republican senators as "out of step with the best traditions of American leadership."

None of what you said made any sense. Keeping a single account mingling business and personal with your own server wasn't about "convenience." It was about expedience. You became judge and jury on what's relevant because you didn't want to leave digital fingerprints for others to retrace. You could have had Huma carry two devices if you really couldn't hoist an extra few ounces. You insisted on piggybacking on Bill's server, even though his aides were worried about hackers, because you were gaming the system for 2016. (Or even 2012.) Suffused with paranoia and pre-emptive defensiveness, you shrugged off The One's high-minded call for the Most Transparent Administration in History. It depends upon what the meaning of @ is.

The subtext of your news conference cut through the flimsy rationales like a dagger: "You can have the first woman president. You can get rid of those epically awful Republicans who have vandalized Congress, marginalized the president and jeopardized our Iran policy. You can get a more progressive American society. But, in return, you must accept our foibles and pro-

tect us."

You exploit our better angels and our desire for a finer country and our fear of the anarchists and haters in Congress.

Because you assume that if it's good for the Clintons, it's good for the world, you're always tangling up government policy with your own needs, desires, deceptions, marital bargains and gremlins.

Instead of raising us up by behaving like exemplary, sterling people, you bring us down to your own level, a place of blurred lines and fungible ethics and sleazy associates. Your family's foundation gobbles tens of millions from Saudi Arabia and other repressive regimes, whose unspoken message is: "We're going to give you money to go improve the world. Now leave us alone to go persecute women." That's an uncomfortable echo of a Clintonian trade-off, which goes: "We're going to give you the first woman president who will improve the country. Now leave us alone to break any rules we please."

Bill, your pathology is more human and interesting. It's almost like you need to create messes to see if your extraordinary political gifts can get you out of them. It's a fatherless boy's "How Much Do You Love Me?" syndrome. Do you love me enough to let me get away with THIS?

Hillary, your syndrome is less mortal, more regal, a matter of "What Is Hillary Owed?" Ronald Reagan seemed like an ancient king, as one aide put it, gliding across the landscape. You seem like an annoyed queen, radiating irritation at anyone who tries to hold you accountable. You're less rhetorically talented than Bill but more controlling, so it's harder for you to navigate out of tough spots.

No Drama Obama and his advisers are clearly appalled to be drawn into your shadowy shenanigans, just as Al Gore once was. Whatever else you say about this president, he has no shadows.

We hope this letter enriches your knowledge of our constitutional system and promotes mutual understanding and clarity as the campaign progresses.

Sincerely,
America □

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